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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
6 October 2008—17 October 2008

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 6 October 2008

DEFENCE

RAF Machrihanish

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The former RAF Machrihanish, near Campbeltown in the west of Scotland, is surplus to defence requirements and will be disposed of.

In considering the way forward in regard to this large but relatively remote site, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has been very aware of the sensitivities that attach to it, not least the impact of change on the local community and the presence of transport links provided by Highlands and Islands Airport Ltd (HIAL), which currently leases areas of the site for use as Campeltown airport. To that end, before making the announcement, we have engaged closely with the Scottish Executive (SE), Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Argyll and Bute council as well as with other stakeholders.

Having publicly announced our intention to dispose of the site, we will now take the disposal forward in partnership with other Government stakeholders via a joint steering/focus group. We will engage and consult with the local community, businesses and other stakeholders to help determine the best way to dispose of the site balancing departmental, Scottish and local interests (including both the requirement to achieve best value for the public purse and maximising the long-term development potential of this site).

It is also our intention, with the full understanding of the SE, to discuss the way forward with HIAL to ensure that its future is both secure and sustainable under new ownership and to ensure that the transport link will continue.

The relatively remote location of Machrihanish means that the impact of a change of use could be greater than elsewhere.

Twenty people currently work for MOD at Machrihanish including facilities management staff and security guards. It is our intention that the termination of employment and maintenance contracts will be handled sensitively. The other MOD establishment in the travel to work area, the oil fuel depot (OFD) at Campbeltown, will remain open.

MOD will also do all it can to ensure that the interests of tenants other than HIAL, are also protected in the sale process.

On water and waste water services supplied by MOD to its tenants, former MOD housing and local farmers, the Department will do everything possible to ensure that a responsible purchaser will discharge those responsibilities for the future.

This announcement brings to an end a long period of speculation about the future of the former RAF Machrihanish. It is hoped that the disposal will end uncertainty and allow a new era of development and long term prosperity to begin that will benefit both the site and the local community.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Georgia

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a statement on 10 September on the conflict in Georgia.

Since then, the Government have been actively engaged in multilateral efforts to resolve the conflict, both in supporting the Georgian Government and people as they try to recover, and in making it clear to Russia that we expect it to abide by its agreement with President Sarkozy. We have supported efforts by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the UN and EU to establish mechanisms that will provide independent monitoring of the situation on the ground in Georgia. I have made clear in discussions with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov that we reject unilateral Russian recognition of the breakaway territories and continued Russian military presence in Georgia. I have also visited both Georgia and Ukraine and assured them that the UK stands by their rights as sovereign countries to determine their own futures. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer and I met the Georgian Prime Minister during his visit on 19 September and discussed specific measures to help the Georgian economy. On 27 September, I met with President Saakashvili in New York and discussed the international peace talks to be held in Geneva on 15 October, reconstruction efforts and the importance of Georgia continuing its domestic reform programme.

We have engaged in intensive discussions with international partners, including through the UN, EU, NATO, G7 and OSCE, in order to help bring peace and stability to the region, to achieve a settlement based on recognition of and respect for Georgian sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as to address critical humanitarian needs, which includes the voluntary return of over 100,000 people displaced by the conflict. Whatever the wisdom of Georgian actions on 7 August, Russia's response was entirely disproportionate. It has been widely condemned by EU, NATO and G7 Foreign Ministers. The encroachment of Russian military forces deep into Georgian territory beyond South Ossetia and Abkhazia during the fighting violated Georgian sovereignty and territorial integrity. Russian actions, including recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, breach a number of UN resolutions that Russia has itself signed. The most recent was UN Security Council Resolution 1808, adopted with Russian support in April 2008, which explicitly "Reaffirms the commitment by all member states to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders".

In the EU, the comprehensive review of EU-Russia relations has begun and will continue up to the next EU-Russia summit in Nice on 14 November. Negotiations on a new EU Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA) with Russia also remain suspended.

The agreement reached on 8 September between Presidents Sarkozy and Medvedev secured Russia's commitment to withdraw its troops from Georgian territory outside the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, in line with the six-point ceasefire plan brokered with the parties to the conflict on 12 August. Russia committed also to international discussions on future

security modalities. On 15 September EU Foreign Ministers agreed to deploy an EU monitoring mission to the region adjacent to South Ossetia and Abkhazia. That mission is now on the ground. The UK has contributed 19 monitors, two headquarters personnel and four armoured vehicles. The mission has a one year mandate to operate throughout Georgia. Its purpose is to monitor compliance with the ceasefire plan, with the aim of supporting efforts to ensure lasting peace and security in the region. More specifically, the mission will help to ensure the free movement of people and goods, as well as monitoring the human rights situation in Georgia and progress on the return of those displaced by the conflict. As such, it is vital that international monitors are afforded the access they need in order to enable them to carry out their mandate.

This mission meets the EU's commitment to provide at least 200 unarmed civilian EU monitors to deploy to zones adjacent to South Ossetia and Abkhazia by 1 October. We expect Russia to meet its commitment to withdraw its forces to their pre-conflict positions by 11 October. The UK is committed to the EU-led conference process due to start in Geneva on 15 October and which will examine ways to ensure security and stability in the region, to ensure protection of civilians, and to settle the issue of refugees and internally displaced persons on the basis of internationally recognised principles and established post-conflict resolution practice.

The UK will continue to work with international partners to ensure that effective support is given to Georgia and towards a lasting, peaceful solution.

I will continue to keep the House informed of developments.

Zimbabwe

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The House will have seen news of the political agreement reached between the parties in Harare on 15 September to form an interim coalition Administration. Three weeks have passed since that moment and still no cabinet has been appointed. The positive momentum generated by the signature is fast evaporating, Zimbabwe's economic and political situation is deteriorating, inflation continues to mount and the people of Zimbabwe are still suffering.

That is why there must be no further delay in the appointment of a Zimbabwean Government. The people of Zimbabwe have made their choice. They had the courage to vote on 29 March in spite of the threats and political violence they faced then. They wanted a Government that represented change and reform. Robert Mugabe and ZANU(PF) spent five weeks suppressing the results of that vote. Time was used as a weapon to drag out the election and avoid the transfer of power. The same tactic is being employed now and it is unacceptable.

We and other donors are continuing to provide vital humanitarian relief to the people of Zimbabwe. The UK remains the second largest bilateral donor. We are providing seeds, fertiliser and other agricultural inputs. Via the Department for International Development, we have already given an additional £9 million to the World Food Programme over the summer. The cruel and inhuman ban on the operation of NGOs has been lifted and so our aid is now finally reaching the most vulnerable in Zimbabwe. But some local restrictions remain in place and the situation for ordinary Zimbabweans remains precarious.

Humanitarian relief is vital but it is not the long-term solution in Zimbabwe. We and others want to help the people of Zimbabwe and a new inclusive Administration deal with the root causes of those problems. For that to happen a new and genuinely representative Government must be put in place and they must commit themselves to reform and change. Evidence of that commitment will be simple to see, in the first instance: full and equal humanitarian access without any political or other restrictions; an end to all political violence and the threat of violence; independent media being allowed back in to Zimbabwe and permitted to report freely; freedom of association for all; and a new Government that shows itself committed to macroeconomic stability and reviving the economy.

Morgan Tsvangirai and the MDC have already said they are committed to taking these kinds of steps. They are no more than the Zimbabwean people deserve and need. In New York at the UN General Assembly, Robert Mugabe said that his party will abide by the spirit and letter of the agreement he had signed. We and others are prepared to help and to judge a new Government by their actions, not by their history. The process of development and reform must be Zimbabwean-led and owned and must come out of Harare. A Government who demonstrates by their actions that they are committed to the rights and welfare of its people will attract substantial assistance from the UK and the international community.

Former President Mbeki worked hard to bring the political parties together. Follow-through on the agreement reached in Harare depends on the parties themselves but South Africa, the region and the African Union can all play a positive role in resolving the current impasse and in overseeing the implementation of the agreement. We continue to encourage them to do so. Zimbabwe's problems are far from over. The agreement may mark a step forward but without fair and even-handed implementation it will not be the decisive step needed by the people of Zimbabwe.

Until a new Zimbabwean Government are appointed and that Government show by their action their commitment to reform, EU targeted measures will remain in place. I will discuss the situation in Zimbabwe again with EU Foreign Ministers when we meet on 13 October. We will continue to work within the EU and UN and with African partners to help resolve Zimbabwe's crisis and to support a positive transition to reform on the ground.

Our commitment to the people of Zimbabwe has never been in question and remains constant. What matters now is whether Robert Mugabe and ZANU(PF) can support an agreement that will bring those people relief.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Fraud Review

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"On 1 October the Government established the National Fraud Strategic Authority (NFSA), an agency of the Attorney-General's

Office. Created out of the Government's response to the 2006 Fraud Review, the NFSA will work with private, public and third sector organisations to initiate, co-ordinate and communicate counter-fraud activity across the economy.

Fraud is a crime that is second only to the illegal drug trade in terms of its impacts on the UK. In 2005, the Association of Chief Police Officers estimated the annual cost of fraud is around £14 billion or nearly £265 for every person in England and Wales. Apart from the financial impacts, fraud also carries a high social cost as often the proceeds of organised fraud are used to fund larger, more serious crimes, such as people and drug trafficking or terrorism.

The business plan that was published on 1 October outlines the NFSA's priorities, functions and its financial plan; copies of which are have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government, through the comprehensive spending review, have committed nearly £29 million (between 2008-11) to implement the Fraud Review's key recommendations to develop a strategic authority, a lead police force, a reporting centre and undertake consultation on a range of criminal justice reforms.

The authority's key priorities will include the delivery of:

a criminal justice system that focuses on the needs of victims by bringing fraudsters to swifter justice, efficiently and effectively;

stronger deterrence to fraudsters through a tough, multi-agency law enforcement and regulatory response; and

greater public confidence in the response to fraud, and greater capability of individuals and organisations to protect themselves.

There is much work underway in the establishment of not only the NFSA, but also the National Lead Police Force and National Fraud Reporting Centre.

This National Lead Police Force, operated by the City of London police will reinforce the policing response to fraud through the provision of essential counter-fraud specialist training, best practice and support to police forces in England and Wales thorough the recruitment of around 40 additional officers and specialists.

To inform the authority's assessment of the fraud threat will be a new National Fraud Reporting Centre (NFRC), which is planned to start operating in late 2009.This centre, also being developed and managed by the City Of London police, will aim to address the under-reporting of fraud through the provision of a telephone and web-based reporting service, which will enable individuals and companies to share information on reports of fraud and receive advice and information to protect themselves from future attacks by fraudsters".

WORK AND PENSIONS

Lone Parent Obligations

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): The Government are committed to eradicating child poverty by 2020 and helping individuals reach their full potential by helping those who can to move from welfare to paid work. We set out our intentions in the command paper "Ready for Work: Full Employment in our Generation" published in December 2007.

Helping more lone parents into work is vital if the Government are to eradicate child poverty by 2020. Paid work for those who can, is the most sustainable route out of poverty. The Government are committed to the principle that once children are older, lone parents who are able to do so and are claiming income support should be expected to look for paid work. In return, the Government have increased the level of assistance and support that they provide to help lone parents move into, and progress in, paid work.

Since 1997 considerable progress has been made in increasing the lone parent employment rate to 56.3 per cent. but we still face major challenges to eradicate child poverty. Over half—58 per cent.—of children in non-working lone parent families live in poverty, compared with 19 per cent. of children of lone parents working part-time and 7 per cent. of those working full-time.

The draft Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008 are intended to help lone parents move into paid employment. From 2010, lone parents with a youngest child aged seven or over will no longer be entitled to income support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent. Instead, those able to take up paid employment may claim jobseeker's allowance (JSA) and those with a disability or health condition may claim employment and support allowance (ESA). The draft regulations recognise that some lone parents face circumstances that need special consideration and provide additional flexibilities to accommodate their individual needs.

The draft Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008 were referred to the Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) on 7 May 2008 for consultation in accordance with section 172(1) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992. I have noted the Committee's concerns and carefully considered their views. I consider there are strong safeguards in the proposed regulations and Jobcentre Plus operations to protect the most vulnerable lone parents. I have also reconsidered the timetable for ending income support for existing lone parent customers. The draft regulations have been amended to accommodate changes so that roll out for lone parents with older children can better inform delivery for subsequent customer groups.

I am now announcing my intention to lay these regulations in draft before Parliament. These regulations are subject to the affirmative procedure.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 7 October 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

The Rights of the Child

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes): On 3 October 2008 the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child published their Concluding Observations on the United Kingdom's report on the implementation of the United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Publication of the Concluding Observations follows the submission of the UK Government's written report to the Committee in July 2007 and an Oral Hearing with the Committee on 23 and 24 September 2008.

The United Kingdom's delegation entered into a frank and open discussion with the Committee. This was recognised both in the Committee's closing remarks at the Oral Hearing and the Concluding Observations. I am pleased that the Committee has also recognised the significant progress we have made in the implementation of the convention and the emphasis we have placed on improving the well-being of children and young people.

I broadly welcome the Concluding Observations and, while areas of difference with the Committee remain, we will give the Committee's recommendations the careful consideration they deserve. This process will include a dialogue with non-governmental organisations and the four United Kingdom Children's Commissioners. Our "Children's Plan", published in December 2007, sets out our ambitions and strategies to tackle many of the issues the UN Committee has highlighted. Later this year we will report on progress against the commitments made in the children's plan.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): As I told the House on 20 May 2008, we have published a consultation document, inviting views on whether or not we should, subject to parliamentary approval, move the date of the English local elections from Thursday 7 May 2009 to Thursday 4 June 2009, the same day as the European parliamentary election. That consultation closed on 11 August and we have received 278 representations, including from the Electoral Commission, the Association of Electoral Administrators, the Local Government Association, many of the councils that would be affected and a number of the political parties.

There was a large measure of support among consultees, including the Electoral Commission, for moving the date of the English local elections in 2009. A number of consultees also made representations about various practical measures they believe we should take if the date of the local elections is to be moved.

I am today placing in the Library of the House a document summarising the representations we have received and setting out the Government's response. This document is also available on the departmental website.

Having carefully considered all the representations received I am also today laying a draft Local Elections (Ordinary Day of Elections in 2009) Order 2008 which, if approved by Parliament and made no later than 7 November 2008, would move the local election day in England, in 2009, to the date of the European parliamentary election, planned for Thursday 4 June. The order also makes incidental, supplementary and consequential provisions as a consequence of that change of date, including provision for the European elections in England in 2009 to be administered on local government boundaries.

The local elections that would be affected by this change of date are the elections to all county councils in two-tier areas, the unitary Isle of Wight county council, Bristol city council and the new unitary councils of Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Cornwall, Shropshire and Wiltshire; a limited number of parish councils and the mayoral elections in Doncaster, Hartlepool, North Tyneside and Stoke.

We believe that avoiding elections on two separate occasions within a month will be more convenient for voters, less costly for the taxpayer and more efficient for electoral administrators. As in 2004, holding the local elections alongside the European elections in 2009 could help boost voter turnout and improve the democratic process.

DEFENCE

Defence Estate Stewardship Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The "Stewardship Report on the Defence Estate 2007-08" will be published today. The publication of the report implements the commitment in "The Defence Estate Strategy 2006—In Trust & On Trust" to report annually performance across a range of estate-related strategic aims, and to demonstrate that the Department is discharging its obligations properly and acting responsibly in meeting the needs of the armed forces. The report attempts to balance:

a. describing the substantial investment made in the estate, the successes over the year, the steps being taken to improve the effectiveness of management and the achievement of value for money, with

b. the commitment to provide an account of our stewardship to external stakeholders.

The report continues to set out the progress against the aims and objectives in the Defence Estate Strategy 2006 and demonstrates how the estate is changing as a result. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House and on the internet.

Armed Forces Act 2006

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): I am today announcing that the timescale for implementation of the Armed Forces Act 2006 is being extended.

When it is implemented, the Armed Forces Act 2006 will allow us to replace the three current Service Discipline Acts and other armed forces legislation with a single system of service law. The Service Discipline Acts, which have provided the legal basis for discipline in the armed forces since the 1950s, will be repealed in due course.

The transitional provisions that will provide the essential bridge between the three Service Discipline Acts and the Armed Forces Act 2006 have proved more difficult and complex than was envisaged in our original planning. The main reason for this is because the provisions contained in the older legislation have all been amended, often piecemeal, over a period of several decades. The result is a complex web of legislation that applies, sometimes in different ways, to each of the armed forces.

The legislation will be brought into effect in October 2009. We do, however, plan to maintain momentum by making the necessary legislative changes to enable the director of service prosecutions, created under the Armed Forces Act 2006, to prosecute all cases under the existing Service Discipline Acts from 1 January 2009. We will bring before Parliament in the autumn the necessary secondary legislation to achieve this.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine Bill

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): A Command Paper was laid before Parliament on 25 September 2008, providing the Government's response to the pre-legislative scrutiny and public consultation on the draft Marine Bill.

The document responds to reports by two parliamentary Committees: the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on the draft Marine Bill, and the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee on the draft Marine Bill: Coastal Access Provisions. The Command Paper also responds to the feedback we received from the public consultation on the draft Bill, which ran from 3 April to 26 June 2008. I am grateful to the Committees which scrutinised the draft Bill and to members of the public for their comments and recommendations.

Responses to the draft Bill have largely been positive, reflecting the wide support for action to protect our marine resources now and for future generations. The reports by the two parliamentary Committees, and the views expressed during the public consultation, are helping us to improve our proposals in this area. Subject to the availability of parliamentary time, the Government now intend to introduce a Bill to:

establish and properly resource the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to deliver marine functions in the waters around England and in the UK offshore area (for matters that are not devolved); and ensure it has a clear purpose;

take forward the proposed new marine planning system, amending the draft Bill to introduce a requirement on policy authorities to periodically review the marine policy statement (MPS); make the MPS subject to a similar parliamentary process as national policy statements; and ensure marine plan authorities are under an obligation to do what they can to ensure compatibility with plans on land;

improve the provisions on licensing by requiring each appropriate licensing authority to establish an appeals mechanism and by setting out detailed transitional arrangements;

amend the draft Bill provisions relating to nature conservation in various ways to provide greater clarity and certainty, including through conferring a statutory duty on Ministers to designate marine conservation zones and setting out other functions and responsibilities on the face of the draft Bill;

continue with our plans to strengthen the management of marine fisheries, including by replacing Sea Fisheries Committees with newly created inshore fisheries and conservation authorities, and to strengthen powers for the licensing and management of migratory and freshwater fisheries;

streamline and modernise enforcement powers ensuring enforcement officers are appropriately trained; provide a power to establish an appeals process for statutory notices under the licensing provisions; and provide guidance that the maximum level of fixed monetary penalty will be capped at £5,000; and

place a duty on the Secretary of State and Natural England to secure a long distance route and land available for open-air recreation, including through amending the draft Bill to require Natural England to conduct a review of early implementation and to report to Parliament after 10 years.

Copies of the Command Paper have been placed in the Library of the House. The document can also be found on the website of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs along with a summary of consultation responses.

North-East Flooding

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Between Friday 5 and Sunday 7 September, severe flooding affected parts of England, with the most affected areas being Morpeth, Rothbury and Ponteland in Northumberland.

Following forecasts of exceptional rainfall in the area, the Environment Agency started to alert local authorities and the emergency services on the 4 September. Calls were made to prepare vulnerable people and areas, including an old people's home in Ponteland, which was evacuated well before any flooding took place.

In the event 150mm of rain (6 inches) fell onto saturated ground and full river catchments in the North-East region over 48 hours. The average for this time of year is 50mm (2 inches) in a month.

Morpeth was the most severely affected area. The first flood watch alert was issued at 3.30am on Saturday morning, and warnings escalated throughout the day. A multi-agency Gold Command was established, led by Northumbria police, and a full evacuation was underway by 4pm, led by the local authority and supported by the emergency services.

Approximately 1,000 homes and businesses were affected by the flooding and around 250 families took advantage of rescue centres and temporary accommodation. By Sunday morning, the flood waters had almost completely receded. Roads were re-opened and the centre of Morpeth opened for business before Sunday lunchtime and the recovery operation began.

The local recovery and support operation will continue for some months yet. Specifically, Recovery and Restoration Groups in Castle Morpeth and Alnwick are offering guidance and support to local residents. Representatives

of the councils, fire and rescue service and police have visited local residents to discuss the support available and the National Flood Forum is advising the Recovery and Restoration Groups on the likely issues they will face as the recovery effort continues.

One NorthEast, the Regional Development Agency, has made £500,000 available to help with immediate costs for affected businesses, and my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government has confirmed that the Bellwin scheme has been activated to cover the immediate local authority costs of responding to the floods. Applications for Bellwin assistance are being prepared by Northumberland county council, and Castle Morpeth borough council.

In addition, many donations have been made, including of furniture and household items. Voluntary agencies and supermarkets have provided food, goods and cleaning materials, and community groups continue to provide drop in centres to give affected families a break from the clean-up operation.

Following the flooding, the Environment Agency are immediately undertaking three emergency works in the area; a structural assessment of a damaged in-river weir upstream of Morpeth; structural assessments of various flood defences in the town; and designing a replacement floodwall demolished by the force of water pushing against it after the town had been inundated.

The Environment Agency are also developing a new scheme to protect Morpeth to the highest possible standard. The scheme is at the end of year one of its current four year programme and efforts will be made to explore a faster timescale for construction.

On behalf of the House, I would like to thank the emergency services who did a very good job dealing with the flooding and to congratulate the local councils, Environment Agency, voluntary organisations and all others who have come together to help communities get back to normal.

HEALTH

Unsustainable NHS Providers

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): On 10 September 2008 the Government launched a consultation exercise on the regime for unsustainable national health service providers.

The consultation sets out details for tackling poor performance in NHS hospitals and trusts while protecting services for patients. It follows the publication of "Developing the NHS Performance Regime" in June this year—which outlined the steps that would be taken if an organisation under-performed—and picks up at the point where an organisation has failed to turn its performance around.

The regime aims to:

underpin the NHS performance regime;

ensure the public receive high-quality services by supporting quality regulation;

reinforce the NHS foundation trust regime; and

protect patients and staff from failing services.

The regime is the last step for providers who are subject to previous recovery actions by Monitor or under the NHS performance regime. The consultation proposes that a 'trust special administrator' would be appointed to take control of the trust to ensure that it continues to provide safe and effective services for patients. The trust special administrator would also be required to produce a report and consult swiftly on proposals for the future of the trust.

The consultation will run until 3 December 2008.

A copy of the consultation document has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Dental Services

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): The House of Commons Health Select Committee published its report on dental services on 2 July 2008. We are today laying before Parliament the Command Paper setting out the interim Government response to the conclusions and recommendations in the report.

We have carefully considered the Committee's recommendations. The new contractual arrangements introduced in 2006 placed a legal duty on primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission dental services to meet local needs. We are confident that the new arrangements provide a better basis for the NHS to commission dental services. New services are opening all over the country and, according to latest figures, there were 655 more dentists working in the NHS in 2007-08 than in the previous year.

We acknowledge there remains work to be done. As well as an existing programme of work with PCTs to drive maximum benefits from the new arrangements in terms of access and quality of services, the Department has begun work with strategic health authorities to agree the changes that will most rapidly improve access to NHS dentistry.

This work will be complete later this autumn and we will then be in a position to make a fuller response setting out further actions.

JUSTICE

Public Guardian Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Public Guardian Board have provided the Lord Chancellor with a copy of their first annual report on the Public Guardian. A copy of the report is available in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent Monitoring Commission

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have today published and laid before Parliament my fourth annual report on the operation of

the agreement between the British and Irish Governments which established the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). This report covers the period 18 September 2006 to 17 September 2007.

In line with a commitment made by my predecessor, this report also contains the audited accounts of the IMC for the twelve-month period ending 31 March 2007.

The report covers the final report on normalisation published on 17 September 2007, which concluded that the normalisation programme as a whole has been complied with.

I remain grateful to the Commissioners of the IMC for their valuable contributions over this period, and for their contribution to promoting the transition to a peaceful society and a stable and inclusive devolved Government in Northern Ireland.

WALES

Legislative Competence Order (Agriculture and Rural Development)

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Agriculture and Rural Development) Order dealing with the Welsh red meat industry has been laid today, as Command Paper (Cm 7474). Copies of this Paper can be found in the Vote Office and will be placed in the Library from 11a.m. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 8 October 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Watling House

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes): It is the normal practice when a Government Department proposes to make a gift of a value exceeding £250,000, for the Department concerned to present to the House of Commons a Minute giving particulars of the gift and explaining the circumstances; and to refrain from making the gift until 14 parliamentary sitting days after the issue of the Minute, except in cases of special urgency.

Watling House opened in early 1999 and was a fully operational secure children's home until it closed in June 2007. Capital grants totalling £3.6 million were paid by the Department of Health to Staffordshire county council for the building and development of the home. In 2003, as part of a machinery of Government change, the policy responsibility for children's homes (secure and non-secure) transferred to the present Department for Children Schools and Families. The Exchequer interest in Watling House is estimated to be £1.224 million.

Section 82(3) of the Children Act 1989 gives the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (with the consent of HM Treasury) the power to recover, in whole or in part, any capital grant (made under section 82(2)) with respect to secure accommodation, where the grant is not used for the purpose for which it was made or the accommodation is not used as, or ceases to be used as, secure accommodation. Government accounting rules require that the sum to be recovered is based on the exchequer interest in the grant(s) awarded.

Staffordshire county council, which owns the home, are proposing to transfer the home to Staffordshire police authority. The home will then be converted into custody provision. The Secretary of State is content to agree the request from Staffordshire county council to waive the exchequer interest in Watling House as the change of use proposed for the site would mean that it would continue to be used for the benefit of the wider national interest.

Treasury consent has been given, in principle, on the conditions that: the site is retained and used for custody provision for a minimum of nine years; and, should the site cease to be used for these purposes the Department retains the right to cancel the waiver and reclaim the remaining Exchequer interest adjusted for elapsed time.

The Treasury has approved the proposal in principle. If, during the period of fourteen parliamentary sitting days beginning on the date on which this Minute was laid before the House of Commons, a Member signifies an objection by giving notice of a parliamentary question or of a motion relating to the Minute, or by otherwise raising the matter in the House, final approval of the gift will be withheld pending an examination of the objection.

DEFENCE

Kosovo

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): The House will recall the successful deployment of the 2nd Battalion, The Rifles (2 Rifles) to Kosovo during June as part of our existing commitment to the NATO/EU shared pan-Balkans Operational Reserve Force (ORF). This commitment will last until the end of 2008.

Following a review of the security situation in Kosovo and our wider military commitments, the Foreign Secretary and I have agreed that the UK contribution to the ORF will cease on 31 December 2008. The major milestones in Kosovo's independence have passed without incident and the security situation in Kosovo is stable, if fragile. Against this backdrop, and with over 15,000 personnel currently in theatre, NATO remains well placed to deal with any potential security incidents.

The deployment of the UK ORF battalion demonstrated again the professionalism of our Armed Forces. It also confirmed our commitment to the security of Kosovo during a politically sensitive period. The UK will continue to make a significant contribution to Kosovo's security through the provision of key intelligence capabilities, support to the stand down of the Kosovo Protection Corps and wider security sector reform and capacity building. Moreover, the UK will continue to assist with mobilising international support for Kosovo on key political, governance and economic issues.

HEALTH

EU Cross-Border Healthcare

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): The Government have today published a consultation paper and partial impact assessment on the Commission of the European Union's proposal for a Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. The consultation will run until 3 December. The consultation paper has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobinuria

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): Over the summer, Ministers received advice reflecting the deliberations of the National Commissioning Group (NCG), the National Specialised Commissioning Group (NSCG) and strategic health authority chief executives about taking a national commissioning approach to the paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria (PNH)

service, including the issue of Eculizumab's availability on the NHS. We have given these complex issues very careful consideration.

The Government can now confirm that Ministers have decided that the NHS should nationally commission the PNH service for clinically eligible patients from 1 April 2009, through the National Commissioning Group. In taking this view, Ministers have taken account of the following key points:

research has provided good evidence that Eculizumab is a highly effective treatment for this condition for a number of patients;

treatment is long-term and life-long for most patients;

the service to treat this condition meets the criteria for national commissioning; and

the 'national' risk pool approach offers significant benefits to PCT commissioners who are not then vulnerable to multiple high cost patients.

The National Specialised Commissioning Team will now make arrangements with NHS stakeholders to ensure that arrangements for the national commissioning of PNH services are in place for 1 April 2009. They will also be considering with the drug's manufacturer and with the local NHS any transitional issues that need to be managed over the next six months.

Prescription Charges

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): The Government had previously announced its intention to hold a consultation on prescription charges (*Official Report*, 23 July 2007, col. 44ws), subject to any changes to the system being cost neutral for the NHS.

Many representations have been received from patients and their representative groups about the current system of prescription charging—some calling for extension of the list of medical exemptions, others for the abolition of charges. Having listened to these representations, we have decided to move away from the constraint of cost neutrality. The Government have, therefore, decided to exempt cancer patients from prescription charges with effect from 1 April 2009, and will move towards exempting patients with long-term conditions over the next few years.

These changes are an additional cost to the NHS, which the Government believe are necessary to ensure that we remove concerns about affordability of medicines for patients who rely on their medicines to allow them to continue their day-to-day activities.

The Government will also establish a review of prescription charges, led by Professor Ian Gilmore, President of the Royal College of Physicians. We have asked Professor Gilmore to report to Ministers in summer 2009, taking into account the views of patients, the public, patient representative bodies, clinicians and healthcare organisations on effective implementation to exempt those with long-term conditions.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I will attend the first Transport Council of the French presidency, which takes place in Luxembourg on 9 October.

The Council will be asked to agree conclusions following the Commission's recent communications on the greening of transport, the strategy for the internalisation of external costs in transport and the reduction of rail noise on existing rolling stock. I expect to be able to agree to the conclusions.

In land transport, there will be a policy debate on the proposal for a directive on cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety. The UK supports the principle of cross-border enforcement, to address the issue of non-resident drivers escaping financial penalties for infringements committed in other member states. But there are practical and legal difficulties that will need to be overcome. Legislation must be practical, workable and effective in the way that it addresses these issues and robustly based in law.

The UK was pleased to see that the directive on the inclusion of aviation in the EU emissions trading scheme was agreed by the European Parliament in July. The October Council will be asked to agree conclusions on the participation of third countries. I expect to be able to agree to the conclusions.

The Council will be asked to adopt a decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations towards a Euro-Mediterranean aviation agreement with the Republic of Lebanon. The UK supports the mandate which is line with others given to the Commission recently to negotiate comprehensive aviation agreements with a number of Mediterranean countries.

The final part of the aviation agenda relates to the SESAR programme for the technical implementation of the single european sky (air traffic management). The Council will aim to achieve a general approach on a regulation amending Regulation 219/2007, establishing a joint undertaking. The Council will also be asked to adopt a resolution launching the development phase of the SESAR programme. The UK supports the priority given by the French presidency to making progress on the single european sky, including the Council Resolution. Our priority on SESAR is to establish suitable governance structures, clarity on funding and robust reporting processes.

The French presidency is keen to achieve political agreement on proposals for directives on the responsibility of EU flag states and the insurance requirements of shipowners. Following extensive negotiations, the presidency is seeking agreement at the Council on a member state's statement, and political agreement on substantially amended versions of the flag state and civil liability directives. However, it is our view that agreement on these proposals may be premature while there are ongoing negotiations with the European Parliament on the six proposals that have already achieved political agreement.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 9 October 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Leasehold Advisory Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I have today placed in the Library of the House a copy of the annual report and accounts of the Leasehold Advisory Service (LEASE) for the financial year 2007-08.

LEASE is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government to provide advice, information and other services to the public and others in relation to residential leasehold and commonhold law.

The report sets out its main activities and performance during the year, a summary of its forward plans, details of the financial status of the service, along with statistics on the number of enquiries it has dealt with over the last twelve months.

It shows the significant amount of enquiries that the service has dealt with over the last twelve months—over 30,000—as part of its work, the growing use of its mediation scheme, and gives an indication of the valued role it plays in the leasehold sector in providing advice to those who require information about their rights.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Child Sexual Abuse Victims (Pitcairn)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Gillian Merron): I would like to inform Parliament that we have established today a mechanism to compensate the victims of past child sex abuse on Pitcairn identified during Operation Unique who co-operated with the authorities in bringing the assailants to justice.

Details of the scheme have been published on the island and the Government of Pitcairn's website (www.pitcairn.pn). Applications will be accepted from people who believe they may be eligible until 31 March 2009.

The Deputy Governor of Pitcairn is working closely with the UK Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority who will advise her on the levels of compensation to award linked to the amounts awarded in the UK.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Named Day Parliamentary Questions (September 2008)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): A total of 807 named day parliamentary questions were asked of departments on the three specified tabling days during September 2008. Of these, 57 per cent. were answered on the due date, a 2 per cent. fall in performance compared with the previous September. Ministers endeavour to answer questions promptly wherever possible. A total of 82 per cent. of questions had been answered substantively by the end of September 2008.

MPs' Allowances (Audit and Assurance)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): Following debates in July, I published a consultation document, "Audit and Assurance of MPs' Allowances" (Cm 7460) on 5 August 2008. It outlines proposals for further action to improve the financial control and audit of the system of allowances claimed by MPs. I had requested that MPs submit their responses by Monday 29 September 2008, but to give more opportunity for MPs to respond I would like to extend the period until Friday 31 October 2008. Copies of the document are available at www.commonsleader.gov.uk.

Parliamentary Questions Rota

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I am pleased to announce the new "Rota for Oral Parliamentary Questions" has been published today.

Copies are available to Members from the Vote Office.

TRANSPORT

Stansted Airport (Planning Appeal)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and I have decided to grant planning permission to change two planning conditions attached to the Stansted airport 2003 permission.

This relates to an appeal by BAA plc and Stansted Airport Ltd following the refusal of planning permission by Uttlesford district council in November 2006.

The decision allows for an increase in the number of flights to and from the airport in a year from 241,000 to 264,000 air traffic movements and an increase in the maximum number of passengers using the airport from 25 million to 35 million per annum.

The reasons are set out in the Secretaries of State's decision letter, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, together with the planning inspector's report.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Kitty Ussher): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 2 October 2008 in Luxembourg. The UK was represented by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the hon. Member for Warwick and Leamington (Mr. Plaskitt), and the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, my hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton, South-East (Mr. McFadden), who has responsibility for employment relations and postal affairs.

There was a policy debate on the Commission's proposal for a directive banning discrimination in the access to goods and services on grounds of religion, belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. James Plaskitt said that the UK strongly supports the aims of this directive, believing that a new directive could contribute to a fairer and therefore stronger Europe, and highlighting that the UK already had comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in place. All member states said that a number of issues required further discussion and the presidency concluded that there was a general consensus to commence discussions of the detail.

The Council received a report from the presidency on the progress that had been made on the European Works Councils directive since July, when the Commission had first proposed to amend it. Agreement by the EU social partners on a version of the Commission's proposal provided a basis for agreement in the Council and prospects for an early agreement look favourable.

An interim report from the Flexicurity Mission on best practice in balancing increased labour market participation with worker protection was outlined by the Commission. The presidency concluded that there were useful common principles but tailored solutions were needed. The Czechs said this would be a priority for their presidency, with the focus on lifelong learning and social protection. The final Flexicurity Mission report will be presented to Council in December.

A partial general approach was agreed by the Council on two chapters of the implementing regulation for social security co-ordination 883/04 covering benefits for work injuries and illnesses and death, and administrative provisions.

The Council also adopted an agreement establishing a European Year for Combating Poverty in 2010.

Under Any Other Business, the Commission reported on progress with an electronic data exchange system to help administer the social security co-ordination Regulation and on a recent summit on the Roma. The presidency also reported on the Equal Opportunities Summit held in Paris in September and on the good progress that has been made with the migration directives on entry for skilled workers and sanctions against illegal employment.

The presidency outlined its plans for a Tripartite Social Summit before the next European Council, the theme of which would be the impact of climate change on employment and social cohesion.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 13 October 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Low Pay Commission (Government Evidence)

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. Pat McFadden): I am pleased to announce that the Government have written to the Low Pay Commission setting out the non-economic evidence on the national minimum wage. The evidence addresses enforcement, publicity and awareness and workers including vulnerable workers, migrant workers and staff receiving tips.

The Government will be submitting its economic evidence to the commission later this year.

A copy of the non-economic evidence will be placed in the Libraries of the House and will be available from the BERR website at www.berr.gov.uk.

TREASURY

Contingencies Fund

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): On 8 October 2008, I announced that by order (The Transfer of Rights and Liabilities to ING Order 2008 No 2666) under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, the retail deposit business of two Icelandic banks, Kaupthing and Landsbanki, with UK subsidiaries, respectively, Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (KSF) and Heritable, have been transferred to ING Direct.

Acting on the advice of the Bank of England and Financial Services Authority (FSA), and in order to ensure the stability of the UK financial system, the Treasury took action to protect the retail depositors in KSF, a UK-based banking subsidiary of Kaupthing, and in Heritable, a UK-incorporated banking subsidiary of the Icelandic bank Landsbanki. Landsbanki has entered an insolvency process in Iceland.

Heritable and KSF are regulated by the FSA. The FSA concluded on 7 October 2008 that Heritable no longer met its threshold conditions, and was likely to be unable to continue to meet its obligations to depositors. The FSA concluded on 8 October 2008 that KSF no longer met its threshold conditions, and was likely to be unable to continue to meet its obligations to depositors.

The FSA determined that for each bank there had been an event of default under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). It was then urgently necessary for the Treasury to intervene in the public interest. The Treasury has used the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008 to ensure a resolution that fully protects UK retail depositors and preserves financial stability. Savers' money is safe and secure, and customers will be able to access their accounts as usual.

This action by the Tripartite Authorities, protects savers' money and provides continuity of business for retail depositors by transferring their deposits to ING Direct. The rest of the business has been put into administration. In time the Treasury will be able to make a claim in the administration of Heritable and KSF as the businesses are wound up and their assets are sold.

Under the Transfer Order, the FSCS has paid out approximately £3 billion to enable retail deposits held in Heritable and KSF and covered by the FSCS to be transferred to ING Direct. The FSCS has financed its payout through a short-term loan from the Bank of England, which will be replaced with a loan from the Government after a short period of time.

HM Treasury made a payment to ING Direct for retail deposit amounts not covered by the FSCS, amounting to approximately £600 million. In return, the FSCS and HM Treasury have acquired rights in respects of the proceeds of the wind-down and realisation of the assets of the remaining business of Heritable and KSF in public ownership

Parliamentary approval for additional provision of £600 million for this new expenditure will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for HM Treasury. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £600 million was met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

On 29 September 2008 the Government announced that by order (The Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc. Order 2008 No. 254) under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, Bradford & Bingley's UK and Isle of Man retail deposit business along with its branch network has been transferred to Abbey National plc. This transfer follows a competitive sale process for this part of the business. The remainder of Bradford & Bingley's business has been taken into public ownership. This action by the Tripartite Authorities, protects savers' money by transferring their deposits to Abbey.

Following the turbulence in global financial markets, Bradford & Bingley found itself under increasing pressure as investors and lenders lost confidence in its ability to carry on as an independent institution. The FSA determined in the morning of Saturday 27 September that the firm no longer met its threshold conditions for operating as a deposit taker under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and FSA rules.

The Government, on the advice of the FSA and the Bank of England, acted immediately to maintain financial stability and protect depositors, while minimising the exposure to taxpayers. It worked over the weekend to bring about the part public, part private solution that best meets those objectives.

The transfer of the retail deposit book has been backed by cash from HM Treasury and the FSCS. The FSCS was triggered following the determination by the FSA that Bradford & Bingley was unable or likely to be unable to satisfy claims against it, prior to the making of the Transfer Order.

Under the Transfer Order, the FSCS has paid out approximately £14 billion to enable retail deposits held in Bradford & Bingley and covered by the FSCS to be transferred to Abbey. The FSCS has financed its payout through a short-term loan from the Bank of England, which will be replaced with a loan from the Government after a short period of time.

HM Treasury made a payment to Abbey for retail deposit amounts not covered by the FSCS, amounting to approximately £4 billion, this sum being net of £612 million receipt from Abbey. In return, the FSCS and HM Treasury have acquired rights in respects of the proceeds of the wind-down and realisation of the assets of the remaining business of Bradford & Bingley in public ownership

Parliamentary approval for additional provision of £4.6 billion for this new expenditure will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for HM Treasury. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £4.6 billion was met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

An Out of Turn Supplementary Estimate will restore the Contingencies Fund to normal levels, as well as providing for the funding of the recapitalisation scheme measures announced today. The action we have taken demonstrates the Government's commitment to do whatever is necessary to ensure the stability of the financial system, while also protecting consumers and safeguarding the interests of the taxpayer.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

14-19 Framework

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Today I would like to update the House on progress with our 14-19 education reforms, and the next steps in realising our ambition that all young people should participate and achieve in learning until at least their 18th birthday.

Last month saw first teaching of the new diploma qualification. My Department has received much positive feedback from young people taking the new diploma qualification, describing how exciting and enjoyable they have found their studies, and from teachers who have been impressed by how successfully the distinctive new curriculum, combining theoretical studies with practical work based experiences, has engaged their students.

Our reform programme has also received positive and constructive external scrutiny. In September, Ofsted published a progress report on the implementation of 14-19 reforms so far. The report confirmed the positive impact that local 14-19 strategies were already having in raising achievement, increasing participation and retaining learners in education and training, and setting out the areas where further work was needed in order to ensure the reforms secured the best possible outcomes for our young people.

Earlier this month the Public Accounts Committee produced a report commending the diploma for the opportunity it provided young people to study for qualifications integrating academic and vocational learning, but also rightly pointing out the importance of ensuring that all schools, colleges and work based learning providers are supported to teach diplomas, not just those teaching from this September. We now have support programmes in place for those teaching diplomas in 2009 and 2010, as well as those who have not yet applied successfully to deliver the diploma.

The latest information we have from local consortia indicates that around 12,000 young people are currently working towards a diploma qualification. Our focus continues to be on the standard of teaching of the diploma, and on supporting the system to build the capacity to deliver these reforms to the quality our young people deserve and at all times putting quality before quantity as we take forward the diploma programme.

Legislation currently before the House would have the effect of raising the age to which young people must participate in learning from 16 to 17 in 2013, and 18 in 2015. If this legislation is passed, then the around 600,000 young people starting secondary school last month will be the first young people who will have to stay on in learning beyond 16. That is why I am today publishing "Delivering 14-19 Reform: next steps", an implementation plan setting out in detail the journey we and our partners will take between now and 2015 to ensure every young person in the country is able to reach their full potential, enjoying first rate educational provision which both stretches and engages them, and prepares them to progress on to Higher Education or skilled employment. It also sets out the support which will be made available to ensure that young people continue to be able to access this provision, whatever financial or challenging personal circumstances they might face.

In addition, it confirms our commitment to ensuring that the ideas and energy of the young people themselves should directly impact upon the planning and delivery of reforms at a local level. We will establish a pilot scheme involving some of those areas delivering from September 2010 to see how the student voice can be taken into account most effectively, which will inform a firmer requirement on consortia to demonstrate how they take the views of young people into account in the fourth diploma gateway. We will also establish a national 14-19 learner panel by spring 2009.

Higher Education and business support for the diploma has also continued to grow. Wellington college has confirmed its intention to offer the diploma in engineering as early as September 2009. All of the Russell and 1994 groups of universities have publicly stated that they will consider applications from diploma students. Our network of diploma employer champions has now expanded to over eighty, including such household names as Land Rover, Vodafone and Toshiba.

I am also announcing today the criteria against which bids for the £55 million worth of funding available for the development of exemplary diploma facilities, announced in July, will be assessed. This will allow work to begin on the development of a series of projects that will create world class diploma facilities to benefit learners and act as showpieces to inspire the whole sector.

Just one example of the exciting new projects already under way are the plans for a new academy, sponsored by JCB, that would be at the forefront of diploma

delivery at levels 1, 2 and 3 in engineering and manufacturing and product design. The academy would be located next to JCB's world headquarters in East Staffordshire and would admit pupils from across Staffordshire, Stoke, Derby City and Derbyshire.

There is much more work to be done to guarantee the successful implementation of our reforms, but I am highly encouraged by our progress to date.

DEFENCE

PFI Contract

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): I am very pleased to announce that the Ministry of Defence has awarded a contract to the Inteq Consortium for the redevelopment of, and provision of services to, the Basil Hill site in Corsham, Wiltshire. The contract was awarded on 1 August.

The purpose of this Private Finance Initiative, part of the Corsham09 programme, is to maximise defence operational effectiveness and business by providing a coherent information infrastructure and assuring the delivery of integrated information solutions throughout the MOD and to our Armed Forces, both at home and abroad.

The modernisation and redevelopment of the Basil Hill site will enable defence equipment and support military and civilian personnel and other MOD staff, who are currently located on various sites in the Corsham area, to be brought together on the one site. This will provide a greater unity of purpose against the developing backdrop of high tempo global operations and coalition partnering, and will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, thus enabling us to continue to provide world-class communications systems and services to our Armed Forces.

The Corsham09 PFI contract, worth some £690 million over the next 25 years, will deliver modern living and working accommodation for up to 2,200 personnel, including the provision of some 180 en-suite bed spaces for servicemen and women. The contract also includes provision for the delivery of a wide range of services, including catering, cleaning, vehicle management and utilities. Some 80 MOD civilian posts will transfer to the new service provider, Inteq. No redundancies are anticipated as a result of the transfer, which will be handled in accordance with existing legislation and the Ministry of Defence's Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) code of practice. The trade unions have been involved throughout the process, and a formal consultation period is currently underway.

Some of the services that, in future, will be delivered by Inteq are already provided under contract to the MOD. As a result, approximately 100 people currently employed by contractors will also transfer, in accordance with TUPE legislation, to the Inteq Consortium.

The agreement we have reached with Inteq will not only benefit our Armed Forces, but also the local community and economy, as well as the wider UK economy. The PFI contract will help to secure existing jobs in the local area with the potential for new jobs to be created. Furthermore, the redevelopment of the Basil Hill site will enable up to 55 hectares of land in Corsham to be released for disposal.

90th Anniversary of Great War Armistice

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): Further to the announcement that my predecessor made on 22 May 2008, I am pleased to be able to provide further details of the Ministry of Defence's plans to mark this year's 90th anniversary of the Great War Armistice on Tuesday 11 November.

We very much hope that the principal participants on 11 November will be remaining veterans of World War One who will lay wreaths as they remember fallen comrades of the Great War. A short service will be led by the Bishop of the Armed Forces, the Right Reverend David Conner, and military musicians and a choir will provide music.The service will start at 10.45 and will last for around 25 minutes.

This unique service will take place two days after our annual national act of remembrance for the fallen of the two world wars and conflicts since on Remembrance Sunday when Her Majesty the Queen, other members of the Royal Family, senior politicians, military Chiefs and Heads of Missions in London will lay wreaths and pay their respects. No additional wreaths will therefore be laid by dignitaries on 11 November, but many will be in attendance to watch this historic event.

The MOD is currently in discussions about broadcasting the event live so it can be seen by a wider audience. Whilst members of the public will be welcome to watch, this will not be a ticketed event. The Royal British Legion are organising 'Silence in the Square' on Trafalgar Square. This event is aimed at promoting public participation in a collective act of commemoration at 11.00. It is hoped that a large screen on Trafalgar Square will show the events taking place at the Cenotaph to ensure that those there can share in the commemoration and any members of the public who cannot be accommodated in Whitehall will be directed there.

Data Security

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The House will be aware that the Ministry of Defence is investigating the disappearance of a computer hard drive from the premises of a contractor, EDS, at Hook. This incident has happened in part as a result of the work that the MOD has been doing in partnership with EDS to implement the requirements of the Cabinet Office's data handling review (DHR) and our own action plan following Sir Edmund Burton's review into data handling in MOD. This process of departmental improvement will continue to root out and expose areas where shortcomings need to be tackled.

In this most recent case, whilst conducting an audit of storage media, EDS found that it could not find a removable hard disk drive. Under the terms of its contract EDS is required to protect all personal information in its care. The hard drive had been used with the TAFMIS recruitment system and may, in the worst case, contain details relating to 1.7 million individuals who have enquired about joining the Armed Forces.

For casual enquiries this will include no more than a name and contact details, but for those who applied to join the forces more extensive personal data may be held. In some cases this will include personal information such as next of kin details, passport and national insurance numbers, drivers' licence and bank details and national health service numbers. EDS assesses that it is unlikely that the device was encrypted because it was stored within a secure site that exceeded the standards necessary for restricted information. An investigation is being conducted by the MOD police. The MOD has set up a help line for those who may be affected by this incident, and for those individuals whose financial details may be involved, action has been taken through APACS (the Association for Payment Clearing Services) to inform banks so that the relevant accounts can be flagged for scrutiny against unauthorised access.

As a result of the review conducted earlier this year by Sir Edmund Burton, the MOD is clear about the crucial need to implement wholesale improvements in how we store, protect and manage the use of personal data. We are also clear that we need to effect a significant behavioural change among our people at all levels. We are currently engaged in a comprehensive programme to do all of this. The MOD is a large Department operating many complex data systems world wide, often at very short notice and under extreme conditions. This presents additional challenges and risks in the implementation of rapid change—however we are determined to ensure that we effect that change.

We have pursued the task with urgency and commitment and in the process we have identified further opportunities for improvement. The progress that the Department has made to date is consistent with that required by the DHR timetable and the commitments we have made to the Information Commissioner. Some of the greatest challenges that we have had to overcome relate to incorporating stricter data handling standards into existing contracts and their related systems retrospectively.

We have undertaken a series of comprehensive reviews into our personal data holdings, looking wider than our personnel systems, and assess that we hold in excess of 200 million records. By the end of October, as agreed, all personal data held by MOD will be under the new governance regime required by DHR. This work relies heavily on reciprocal commitment from our key suppliers. Central to it is our continuing detailed census of storage as part of our commitment to good data management. In line with this, it is intended to reveal whether any storage devices cannot be accounted for. Such cases are treated very seriously with immediate action to investigate the loss, engage individuals who might be at risk of compromise and alert the Information Commissioner. This process led to the discovery of the missing hard drive at the EDS site in Hook.

The fact that this event, and another involving a suspected theft at Innsworth, has occurred on a high security site manned by cleared personnel illustrates the need continually to review and enhance our arrangements for personal data. This work relies heavily on reciprocal commitment from our partners.

The Information Commissioner's Office recognises that we may uncover further issues as we implement our assurance regime. This is a direct result of emplacing an effective approach to data security. The implementation of our action plan remains on track to be compliant with the requirements of the Burton review by the end of March 2009 and likewise the requirements of DHR by October 2009. We will update the House as required.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Government Decontamination Service

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I have set the Government Decontamination Service (GDS) the following remit. This updates and replaces the remit originally set for the GDS when the agency was established in 2005. It provides a clearer and more focused statement of purpose for the service. It does not change the functions of the service but seeks to explain them better through setting the functions in the context of the service's dual role of:

preparing for a crisis

responding to a crisis and supporting Departments and responsible authorities during the clean-up or recovery phase.

Remit for the Government Decontamination Service

1. Role in preparing for a crisis—core functions:

1.1 Establish and maintain a framework of contractors (specialist suppliers) which, in the event of a CBRN[1] or major HAZMAT[2] incident, and using a call-off contract mechanism, can offer appropriate remediation or decontamination-related services (including sampling and monitoring, and waste management services to facilitate decontamination) for the built and open environment and transport assets, including critical national infrastructure.

1.2 To establish and maintain a programme of work to test, exercise and evaluate GDS and GDS framework capability against likely service requirement based on the appropriate Government policies and materials, using national and international technical information as appropriate.

1.3 To capture information on known framework capability and capacity; identify gaps in known capability and capacity, and explore mitigations and possible solutions as appropriate.

1.4 Provision of advice and briefing on framework capability and capacity[3], and written guidance on associated remediation/decontamination issues to Departments, devolved Administrations, and responsible authorities.

1.5 To participate in the work of the Home Office CBRN strategic programme in identifying, prioritising, and, as necessary, managing decontamination-related research projects.

1.6 To build up a library of the relevant knowledge (including reference material) and experience available to GDS, drawing on national and international information, which can be used by its officers, and others, to support the development of the framework and wider remediation work.

1.7 Maintaining a duty officer role.

2. Role supporting the crisis recovery phase:

In the event of a CBRN or major HAZMAT incident:

2.1 Act as expert advisors on the capability and capacity of the GDS framework contractors, their services and, where relevant, the different remediation or decontamination methodologies and technologies available through the framework;

2.2 To provide expert/scientific advice as necessary to relevant groups, including the STAC and recovery co-ordination group, on the consequences of the decontamination techniques used by the framework contractors, and on their capability/capacity and operating procedures to inform the consequence management strategy.

2.3 Help the lead responsible authority (or "Agent") access the most appropriate framework services in order to ensure the efficient, effective and timely decontamination/remediation work is carried out. And to assist them in being an intelligent customer when setting up the appropriate contract or contracts;

2.4 Facilitate the liaison between the responsible authority and the contractor(s) throughout the duration of the contract.

2.5 Signposting alternative options where framework services have reached capacity, or where the decontamination service necessary does not require the level of capability available through the framework.

2.6 Providing, where required, appropriate briefing and assistance to central Government (including direct to the relevant Minister through the lead Government Department) on decontamination-related matters including capability and capacity of framework contractors and other known remediation or decontamination capability.

Performance Targets, 2008-09

I have also set the GDS the following performance targets for 2008-09:

To provide an evaluated framework of specialist suppliers to meet the requirements arising from the UK national risk assessment process, utilising exercises to assess the capacity and capability of specialist Framework suppliers.

GDS will contribute to the central Government knowledge on national capability and capacity for the decontamination of buildings, infrastructure, mobile transport assets and the open environment.

Provide operational and tactical advice and guidance to central Government and other stakeholders, including local authorities.

GDS will develop its staff with both the capacity and capability to support the requirements arising from its remit.

Provide robust Corporate Governance in line with the Treasury Audit Committee handbook and the National Audit Office and Internal Audit recommendations.

Further details are given in the GDS business plan for 2008-09, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

[1]CBRN—a deliberate act involving chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear materials.

[2]Major HAZMAT—an accident, regardless of scale, involving chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear materials where the incident is in excess of local capability and/or knowledge and authorities request GDS services.

[3]Where appropriate and subject to appropriate security restrictions.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Resposibilities

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I recently announced a series of changes to ministerial responsibilities. I have today placed in the Library of the House the Cabinet Office paper "Machinery of Government: economy, business, climate change, energy and environment", which sets out these changes in more detail.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 14 October 2008

TREASURY

2008-09 Debt Management Remit to Facilitate Bank Recapitalisation (Revision)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): I am today revising the Debt Management Office's (DMO) 2008-09 financing remit to raise £37 billion to facilitate bank recapitalisation. The £37 billion will be raised through:

£30 billion in additional gilt sales (taking total gilt sales to £110 billion in 2008-09); and

£7 billion in additional Treasury bill sales, (taking the contribution to financing of Treasury bills in 2008-09 to + £6.1 billion and the planned Treasury bill stock at end-March 2009 to £23.7 billion).

The planned increase in gilt sales will be split by maturity/type as follows:

£21 billion of additional short-dated conventional gilts (taking total issuance to £46 billion) including the launch on 13 November 2008 of a new, current coupon, gilt maturing on 7 December 2011 (with a long first dividend period);

£7 billion of additional medium-dated conventional gilts (taking total issuance to £19.8 billion);

£1 billion of additional long-dated conventional gilts (taking total issuance to £25.2 billion); and

£1 billion of additional index-linked gilts (taking total issuance to £19 billion).

Seven additional gilt auctions will be scheduled, five of short-dated and two of medium-dated conventional gilts. The DMO has committed not to add any further gilt auctions in the third quarter of this financial year in the event of a further remit revision in the 2008-09 pre-Budget report.

The maximum size of conventional gilt auctions will be increased from £4 billion to £5 billion (cash). The revised gilt auction calendar to the end of 2008 is shown below.

The DMO also plans to supplement sales at auctions with a number of sales of gilts by mini-tenders, which are operations conducted directly with Gilt-Edged Market Makers by the DMO's dealing desk.

The first such operation in this programme is being announced today to take place on Monday 20 October 2008, for £1 billion (nominal) of 4 per cent. Treasury Stock 2009, for settlement on Tuesday 21 October 2008.

Other mini-tender operations are planned for 4¼ per cent. Treasury Gilt 2055 in the week commencing 17 November, and for 1¼ Index-Linked Treasury Gilt 2055 in the weeks commencing 3 November and 1 December 2008.

Gilt Auctions to End-2008 (£nom)

	Currently Scheduled	*Additional*
Thu 16-Oct	4½ per cent. 2013 (£3.75bn)	
Tue 21-Oct		4¼ per cent. 2011 (£4.75bn)
Thu 23-Oct		5 per cent. 2018 (£3bn)
Tue 28-Oct	New IL 2032	
Thu 30-Oct		4 per cent. 2016
Tue 04-Nov	4¾ per cent. 2030	
Tue 11-Nov		4¾ per cent. 2015
Thu 13-Nov		New December 2011
Thu 20-Nov	4½ per cent. 2019	
Tue 25-Nov	0¾ per cent. IL 2047	
Thu 27-Nov		5 per cent. 2012
Tue 02-Dec	4¼ per cent. 2049	
Tue 09-Dec	New IL 2032	
Thu 11-Dec	4½ per cent. 2013	
Thu 18-Dec		New December 2011

This revision to the DMO's remit does not take account of any other changes to the Government's forecasts of the public finances. These forecasts will be updated in the pre-Budget report. An updated remit, incorporating the changes announced today, will be published, as usual, after the Chancellor's statement.

This revision to the DMO's financing remit is being made in accordance with paragraph 5.18 of the published remit which provides that:

"Any aspect of this remit may be revised during the year, in light of exceptional circumstances and/or substantial changes in the following:

the Government's forecast for the gilt sales requirement;

the level and shape of the yield curve;

market expectations of future interest and inflation rates; and market volatility".

Under the terms of its Operational Notice, the DMO is not obliged to give more than one hour's notice of such an operation, but in this case, it is pre-committing to the week(s) in which the intended operations will take place, and also commits to give a minimum of 24 hours, notice of the actual size and timing of the planned tenders at the relevant time. Such decisions will be taken in the light of market feedback and conditions at the time.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Authority Finances (Icelandic Bank Failures)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): A number of Icelandic banks went into administration in the middle of last week. It quickly became clear that many local authorities were among those who had deposits in those banks. The Government's first priority has been to do everything we can to help local authorities, along with other creditors, get back the money which they had deposited in the banks. In parallel, my Department has been working closely with the Local Government Association to ensure that individual authorities who are experiencing severe short-term difficulty get assistance to help them through this period. We are doing this to protect individuals, communities and the local services on whom the most vulnerable people in our society depend.

We have put in place a five point plan:

my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer froze the UK assets of Landsbanki last Wednesday, to ensure that local authorities and other creditors are treated fairly; and an

HM Treasury delegation was sent to Iceland on Friday to discuss ways in which deposits could be protected;

in relation to the banks in administration in the UK—Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander and Heritable—we are working to ensure that deposits are recovered as quickly as possible; and the Local Government Association has opened discussions with the administrators, Ernst and Young;

the Local Government Association agreed with the Government last week that it would undertake an urgent analysis of the effects of the situation on individual local authorities, to provide a full picture of the impact on local government. As part of that exercise, which is nearing completion, the LGA have asked any local authority which is facing severe short-term difficulties to let them know as a matter of urgency. My right hon. Friend, the Minister for Local Government and my hon. Friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury met the Local Government Association last Thursday; and we will be meeting again this week. My hon. Friend the Minister for policing met the Association of Police Authorities on the same day;

we have established a joint rapid response unit with the LGA and Improvement and Development Agency - which is already operational—to provide sector-led support to authorities facing severe short-term difficulties. The Government and the LGA will agree an appropriate set of ways to assist authorities in that position; and have agreed that we will look at the issues facing each authority on a case-by-case basis; and

the rapid response unit now has a team of experts in local authority financial management and treasury management in place, ready to go immediately into any authorities who need that assistance. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary is similarly ready to provide support for police authorities.

Our guidance to local government on investments makes clear that "the general policy objective is that local authorities should invest prudently the surplus funds held on behalf of their communities". It emphasises that "priority should be given to security and liquidity" and goes on to say that "it will be appropriate to seek the highest rate of return consistent with the proper levels of security and liquidity". This guidance appears to have been adhered to.

Many authorities have already publicly stated that any risk is not a threat to frontline services—but a small number of authorities may have specific problems, which is why we have put in place support and expertise which is immediately available. No local authority has told the LGA that it is in such short-term difficulty that it cannot pay the wages of its staff.

The Government and international partners have already acted to support stability of the banking system. The LGA and the Government encourage all councils to continue managing their finances prudently and sensibly in difficult times. My hon. Friend the Minister for policing met the Association of Police Authorities last week and my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is keeping in close touch with the situation to ensure that the steps we are taking are applied as necessary to police authorities.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and to take appropriate action.

This set of actions should be seen in the context of the wider action taken last week by my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Acting on the advice of the Bank and the Financial Services Authority, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer last week took action to protect the retail depositors banking subsidiary of Landsbanki and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, a UK-based banking subsidiary of Kaupthing Bank. Using powers under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, retail deposits in Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander have been transferred to ING Direct. Savers' money is safe and secure. The Chancellor has also guaranteed retail deposits in Icesave in full. The Treasury and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme are working with the Icelandic authorities and their Deposit Insurance Scheme to ensure that depositors in Icesave are paid back as quickly as possible. The Bank of England has also provided a short-term secured loan of up to £100 million to the London branch of Landsbanki, to help ensure an orderly wind-down and maximize the returns to UK creditors. The Government have also frozen the funds and financial assets held by Landsbanki. This is a precautionary measure to protect UK economic interests and we are continuing to work closely with the Icelandic authorities to ensure a fair process for UK creditors.

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): I would like to inform Parliament that we have issued today an invitation to local authorities to make proposals which they consider would encourage the improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of local areas. The invitation falls under section 2(1) of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. A copy of the invitation has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Regulations relating to the Act were made on 9 October 2008 and laid before Parliament on 13 October 2008. They come into force on 3 November 2008. The regulations include further details about the procedure to be followed in relation to the submission of proposals under the Act. In particular, they require a local authority, before making any proposal, to establish or recognise a panel of representatives, consult it about the proposal, and to have regard to any guidance issued. The SI number is 2008/2694.

Statutory guidance relating to the Act was published on 9 July 2008, as an annex to statutory guidance on the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities: Statutory Guidance).

The text of the formal invitation letter is as follows:

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007: FIRST INVITATION TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

Dear Colleague

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 creates a useful opportunity for local authorities to propose new ways to improve local neighbourhoods for their residents, visitors and businesses. I am formally inviting local authorities under section 2(1) of the Sustainable Communities Act to submit their proposals.

This initiative is part of the drive to empower citizens and communities; others are highlighted in the White Paper "Communities in Control: real people, real power", which was published in July this year.

The principal aim of the Act is to promote the sustainability of local communities by encouraging the improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the authority's area, including participation in civic and political activity.

It begins from the principle that local people know best what needs to be done to promote the success of their area, but that sometimes they need central Government to act to enable them to do so. It provides a channel for local people to ask central Government, via their local authority, to take such action and for central Government to work in co-operation with the Local

Government Association (LGA)—which represents the interests of local authorities—in making it happen.

I hope this invitation leads to a productive dialogue between central and local government and local communities, and that this will lead to innovative suggestions on how to improve the sustainability of local communities and what central Government can do to help.

Local authorities have until 31 July 2009 to put forward proposals. All proposals should be sent to the LGA which has been appointed as the 'selector' under the terms of the Act. I enclose a letter from the Director for Empowerment at CLG, Stuart Hoggan, which gives further details about the process for submitting and progressing proposals.

I look forward to working closely with the LGA to identify those proposals on which Government can best assist local authorities and local communities in promoting the sustainability of local areas, in ways which benefit local people in tangible ways.

Yours sincerely,

Hazel Blears

A copy of the letter from the Director for Empowerment at CLG has been deposited in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Switchover

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): Digital switchover is the process by which the UK's analogue television signals are switched off and replaced by digital television signals. Switchover will take place ITV region by ITV region. The next region to switch will be Border in November 2008.

In order to help those who may otherwise have difficulty in switching to digital, the Government, with the BBC, have established the Digital Switchover Help Scheme which provides digital equipment, installation and after-care support to those who:

are aged 75 or over;

have a significant disability; or

are blind or partially sighted.

The help scheme is funded by the BBC—£603 million of licence fee income has been ring-fenced for this purpose.

The scheme costs a subsidised £40 fee for those who are eligible, but is free to those who are eligible and also on some form of income-related support.

After further consideration, I have concluded that it would reasonable to take the view that anyone resident in a care home is likely to have difficulty in making the switch to digital TV, and therefore should be eligible for help under the scheme. I therefore propose to extend the scheme eligibility criteria so as to include everyone normally resident in a care home. For the purposes of the help scheme, someone will be considered normally resident if they have been in a care home for six months or more, or if a care home manager expects them to have been resident for more than six months by the end of the eligibility period.

It is not possible to estimate accurately the number of additional people who will now be eligible for the help scheme as there are no centrally held figures on care home residents across the UK. However, a large number of those in care homes will already qualify under the existing eligibility criteria and our estimate is that the proposed change will bring about 100,000 new people within the help scheme.

HEALTH

NHS Funds (Icelandic Banks)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Acting on the advice of the Bank and FSA, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer last week took action to protect the retail depositors in three Icelandic banking operations in the UK: Icesave, a UK-based branch of Landsbanki; Heritable, a UK-based banking subsidiary of Landsbanki; and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, a UK-based banking subsidiary of Kaupthing Bank.

Using powers under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, retail deposits in Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander have been transferred to ING Direct. Savers' money is safe and secure. The Chancellor has also guaranteed retail deposits in Icesave in full. The Treasury and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme are working with the Icelandic authorities and their Deposit Insurance Scheme to ensure that depositors in Icesave are paid back as quickly as possible. The Bank of England has also provided a short-term secured loan of up to £100 million to the London branch of Landsbanki, to help ensure an orderly wind down and maximize the returns to UK creditors. The Government have also frozen the funds and financial assets held by Landsbanki. This is a precautionary measure to protect UK economic interests and we are continuing to work closely with the Icelandic authorities to ensure a fair process for UK creditors.

There are no strategic health authorities, primary care trusts or NHS trusts with any Exchequer funds—that is, taxpayers' money—residing in Icelandic banks.

There is one organisation, Hammersmith hospitals NHS Charities, which has £1.65 million of charitable funds deposited in the Icelandic bank—Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander. Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust has now merged with Imperial College NHS Trust, but the charity arm is still going through the merger process. The trust are working with their legal team and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme to ensure they protect these deposits.

In addition, there are two NHS foundation trusts with money deposited in Icelandic bank accounts.

The Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust released a statement on Friday 10 October confirming that they have a deposit of £7.5 million with the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander—£1 million pounds of this is NHS money and £6.5 million is charity money. The Christie hospital have taken legal advice and are working closely with the Financial Services Authority to ensure that they protect their deposits.

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust also have a deposit of £1 million with the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander. All of this deposit is NHS money and the trust are working with their legal team to ensure that they protect their deposits.

The Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust have confirmed that that in neither case will any potential loss give rise to concerns as to their ability to continue to provide services.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Procedures Committee (Annual Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): In accordance with Section 20(5) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, I have today laid before the House the Committee's annual report for 2007. Copies are available in the Vote Office. Among other things the report includes:

the work carried out by the Committee's sub-committees;

Better Regulation Advice on Personal Licensing and Mandatory Training;

Better Regulation Advice on the release criteria for GA animals; and

Better Regulation: summary report of the APC working group on the ethical review process.

The report concludes with the Committee's work plan for 2008.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Universities (Icelandic Banks)

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): Acting on the advice of the Bank and FSA, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer last week took action to protect the retail depositors in three Icelandic banking operations in the UK: Icesave, a UK-based branch of Landsbanki; Heritable, a UK-based banking subsidiary of Landsbanki; and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, a UK-based banking subsidiary of Kaupthing Bank. Using powers under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, retail deposits in Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander have been transferred to ING Direct. Savers' money is safe and secure. The Chancellor has also guaranteed retail deposits in Icesave in full.

The Treasury and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme are working with the Icelandic authorities and their Deposit Insurance Scheme to ensure that depositors in Icesave are paid back as quickly as possible. The Bank of England has also provided a short-term secured loan of up to £100 million to the London branch of Landsbanki, to help ensure an orderly wind-down and maximize the returns to UK creditors. The Government have also frozen the funds and financial assets held by Landsbanki. This is a precautionary measure to protect UK economic interests and we are continuing to work closely with the Icelandic authorities to ensure a fair process for UK creditors.

Over the past few days, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has been seeking information from higher education institutions about whether they have deposited money in these Icelandic banks.

Universities are independent charitable bodies, and take their own banking and investment decisions. But HEFCE has a responsibility to keep under review the financial health of higher education institutions that receive public funding.

HEFCE has informed the Government that there are 12 universities which held deposits with Icelandic banks that have recently entered into administration. The total amount deposited was around £77 million.

Clearly this is a serious matter for each of these universities, and officials from HM Treasury are engaging with them and HEFCE about their concerns. However, it should be noted that HEFCE has concluded that no university is at risk as a result of its exposure to Icelandic banks. Certainly no university faces a level of exposure that would raise questions about its continuing solvency. Students, businesses, charities and others may deal with universities with exactly the same level of confidence as before. HEFCE will be on standby to provide advice and expertise to any institution affected by these problems.

It is important that the Funding Council is able to hold full and candid discussions with universities about their financial affairs. For this reason its policy, which the Government support, is not to disclose information about individual universities.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Regional Development Strategy (Caribbean)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses a communications booklet outlining the UK's regional development strategy for the Caribbean 2008-13.

Achieving a higher rate of growth is vital for the Caribbean's development. Whilst the Caribbean has the natural resources and talent to be a global player, economic growth has been slow in recent decades. The region must diversify and become more competitive in order to prosper and achieve its significant potential.

Preferential trade agreements are coming to an end under international law, but new trade agreements, such as the European Partnership Agreement with the EU, provide significant opportunities for the region to grow and diversify.

The UK's new regional development strategy for the Caribbean focuses on:

growth, including seizing opportunities arising from the new trade agreements such as the EPA; and

mitigating the risks to growth posed by climate change, which exacerbates natural disasters and affects communities dependent on tourism and fishing, and violent crime which costs lives and discourages investment.

CABINET OFFICE

The Third Sector (Icelandic Banking)

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Liam Byrne): Over the last few days, the Cabinet Office has been working actively to determine the economic situation some charities may find themselves facing.

Only a small fraction of a total of £56 billion[1] worth of investment assets held by general charities[2] is invested in Icelandic banks.

As agreed at a meeting between Ministers and charity representatives on Friday 10 October, the Cabinet Office is working with ACEVO, NCVO, CFDG and CAF—The Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, The Charity Finance Directors Group and The Charities Aid Foundation—to ascertain the full extent of investment assets affected by the position of Icelandic banks.

We are working closely with the Charity Commission, the sector's regulator, to support charities who have deposits in Icelandic banks. We are also discussing directly with affected charities their concerns.

Acting on the advice of the Bank and the FSA, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer last week took action to protect the retail depositors in three Icelandic banking operations in the UK: Icesave, a UK-based branch of Landsbanki; Heritable, a UK-based banking subsidiary of Landsbanki; and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, a UK-based banking subsidiary of Kaupthing Bank. Using powers under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, retail deposits in Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander have been transferred to ING Direct. Savers money is safe and secure. The Chancellor has also guaranteed retail deposits in Icesave in full. The Treasury and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme are working with the Icelandic authorities and their deposit insurance scheme to ensure that depositors in Icesave are paid back as quickly as possible.

The Bank of England has also provided a short-term secured loan of up to £100 million to the London branch of Landsbanki, to help ensure an orderly wind-down and maximize the returns to UK creditors. The Government have also frozen the funds and financial assets held by Landsbanki. This is a precautionary measure to protect UK economic interests and we are continuing to work closely with the Icelandic authorities to ensure a fair process for UK creditors.

We are working with HM Treasury to do what we can to support those organisations with investments in Icelandic banks, and ensure they are in the strongest possible position to protect their investments.

In the light of recent global economic events, the Government are more determined than ever to support the third sector through the upcoming months and years. We are committed to ensuring that charities are supported in resolving any short term issues they may face as well as supporting them in the long term.

We are working closely with sector leaders, representing small and large organisations, and Ministers will co-chair, alongside Stuart Etherington, an upcoming NCVO sector-wide summit to tackle upcoming issues.

A survey released by the Commission this morning has revealed that one in four charities has already put in place measures to deal with the economic downturn. The Commission is keen to provide further advice and guidance for charities and trustees via its helpline and website.

We are confident that the sector is in better shape than ever before to meet the challenges ahead. Its income from Government has doubled over the last 11 years to a total of £11 billion a year.

I will continue to represent the interests of the sector at the newly founded National Economic Council, which will consider the impact of the current financial crisis on the economy as a whole.

[1] General charities are defined as 'private non-profit-making bodies serving persons'. This excludes sacramental religious bodies or places of worship, UK Civil Society Almanac (2008)

[2] UK Civil Society Almanac (2008)

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 15 October 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): The ECOFIN Council met informally in Nice on 12 September, and again formally in Luxembourg on 7 October 2008. The Chancellor of the Exchequer attended both meetings for the UK. The following items were discussed:

PREPARATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 15-16 OCTOBER

(i) Economic situation, including EMU@10

Following an informal discussion at the ECOFIN meeting in Nice, Ministers agreed a set of Council conclusions on the current economic situation in the EU. The text covers the shocks caused to the European economy by financial instability and the rise in commodity prices, and appropriate responses. The UK welcomes these conclusions, which stress the need to continue with economic reform in Europe, and call on the European Investment Bank to provide greater funding to SMEs.

(ii) Situation of the financial markets and European supervision

In addition to the discussion outlined above, Ministers held a follow-up discussion to the informal ECOFIN on the causes and possible policy responses to ongoing financial turbulence. ECOFIN agreed a set of conclusions which complement the short-term actions agreed, and which will form the basis of discussions by Heads of State and Government.

(iii) Volatility of oil and raw material prices: political response

As requested by Heads of State and Government at the European Council in June, Ministers discussed developments in oil prices and possible measures to be taken in response on the basis of work prepared by the European Commission and the presidency. The UK welcomes measures to facilitate transparency in oil markets, including greater producer-consumer dialogue, and to promote energy efficiency as longer-term measures to improve market functioning.

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE 7 OCTOBER MEETING

(i) Immediate responses to the financial turmoil

Due to developments in financial markets, ECOFIN Ministers devoted a significant amount of their time to developing a co-ordinated set of principles to guide actions. The principles, which the UK fully supports, stress that member states should:

Ensure that any interventions are to be timely, with the support being, in principle, temporary;

Be watchful regarding taxpayers' interests;

Protect the legitimate interests of competitors by having regard to state aid and competition rules;

Avoid possible negative spill-over effects.

(ii) Financial services: draft directive on the solvency of insurance undertakings (Solvency II)

Finance Ministers discussed the draft Solvency II directive, which will set prudential requirements for insurance and reinsurance companies. Discussion focused particularly on prudential capital requirements and supervision of cross-border insurance groups. The UK supports work that will ensure more effective supervision of pan-European insurance groups, and which will ensure a sufficient prudential framework. The issue will be returned to at the next meeting of the ECOFIN Council in November.

(iii) Taxation: combating VAT fraud

Ministers agreed the outline of an improved system of targeted information exchange to combat VAT fraud.

(iv) Reduced VAT rates

Following a discussion over breakfast at the informal ECOFIN, Ministers will held an exchange of views on the principles underlying the application of reduced rates of VAT across the EU, with the European Commission presenting analysis designed to facilitate the discussion. The UK believes that member states should be allowed flexibility in applying reduced rates of VAT as long as they do not have detrimental effects on the single market. ECOFIN will return to this issue at its meeting in November.

HOME DEPARTMENT

G6 and United States Counter-Terrorism Symposium

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): The informal G6 group of Interior Ministers from France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom met in Bonn, Germany on 26 and 27 September 2008, along with the United States State Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. This was the third G6 plus US counter-terrorism symposium meeting (previous meetings took place in Venice in May 2007 and Schwielowsee in November to December 2007). I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom.

The symposium was divided into four substantive discussion sessions:

general aspects of counter-terrorism (prevention, countering radicalisation, criminal law and law on threat prevention);

remote searches of computer hard drives;

diplomatic assurances; and

right to self-defence.

The discussions underlined the importance of transatlantic co-operation on counter-terrorism. We reflected on developments in the field of international terrorism, continued our exchanges on the development of effective countermeasures and recognised that it was important to be able to respond effectively to new challenges.

The symposium emphasised that all state responses to the threat of terrorism must fully respect the international legal framework on the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

Conclusions on the topics above were agreed and then presented at a press conference at the end of the symposium.

It was agreed that the G6 plus US CT symposium was a useful forum which should continue to meet (dates for future meetings have not been confirmed).

JUSTICE

Anti-Corruption Champion

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Having been appointed as the Government's Anti-Corruption Champion this week, I am writing to inform the House of progress made in our anti-corruption efforts.

For two years, the Government have undertaken a concerted programme of action to co-ordinate and to improve our anti-corruption systems through annual anti-corruption action plans driven forward by my predecessors, my right hon. Friends the Members for Barrow and Furness (John Hutton) and for Leeds, Central (Hilary Benn). The role of Anti-Corruption Champion is a personal appointment by the Prime Minister and the secretariat and support functions remain within BERR.

Government investment in dedicated police resources has led to a dramatic increase in the number of investigations into allegations of foreign bribery by UK nationals and companies, up from four investigations in 2006 to over twenty live cases this year. Investigations are feeding through into prosecutions and convictions of wrongdoers.

We will make further significant progress in the next few months on the reform of the law on bribery. The Law Commission is expected to report in November on the full range of structural options. As announced in the draft legislative programme, we propose to publish a draft bill in the next session of Parliament, which will be informed by the Law Commission's review.

This week the working group on bribery at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will publish a report on the UK's progress against its recommendations. We have written to the OECD about our plans to develop a comprehensive UK strategy for tackling foreign bribery. This strategy will build on the solid foundation we have established for combating foreign bribery and strengthen our work with international partners, establishing a clear legal, regulatory and policy framework.

A copy of our note to the OECD will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Post-Gallagher Update

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): My noble Friend the Minister of State for the Department for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

I have today published a consultation on slowing down the rate of increase of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) to 0.5 per cent. per annum, taking the level to 5 per cent. in 2013-14 rather than in 2010-11 as currently provided for in legislation.

This consultation fulfils a commitment made by Government in an oral statement by the then Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly) on 7 July, where she emphasised that UK policy on biofuels will aim to ensure development of a sustainable biofuels industry.

Amid growing concerns about the potential indirect impacts of biofuels on food supplies and prices, on deforestation and on greenhouse gas emissions, the Government commissioned Professor Ed Gallagher, chair of the Renewable Fuels Agency, to lead a review of the latest evidence on biofuels. The review concluded that the Government should "amend but not abandon" its biofuel policy. The review also stated that "by 2020 biofuels have the potential to deliver greenhouse gas savings of 338 to 371 million tonnes of carbon dioxide" and that there is a "strong need for further evidence and monitoring to determine the sustainability and wider impacts of biofuels". In short, the review concluded that there was a future for biofuels, but that Government should adopt a cautious approach until the wider environmental and social impacts of biofuels could be understood.

The Government agree with the recommendations of the Gallagher review.

As well as consulting on slowing down the rate of increase of the RTFO, we will also be consulting on the addition of two new eligible fuels under the scheme. We have asked for responses by 17 December.

In addition we continue to support the EU target of 10 per cent. renewable transport fuels by 2020, but will continue to argue that this target be subject to clear conditions, that the EU-level sustainability criteria address indirect, as well as direct, effects of biofuels and that the target is subject to rigorous review in light of the emerging evidence on the wider, indirect impacts of biofuels.

We are also continuing to engage with international partners and the scientific community to better understand how to define a good sustainable biofuel, and are committed to ensuring that this gathering of evidence on the indirect impacts of biofuels is fed into the ongoing debate across Europe and globally on how to encourage production of sustainable biofuels.

I can also announce that the Department anticipates contributing up to £3 million per year over the next two financial years to the Carbon Trust's Advanced Bioenergy Directed Research Accelerator. This funding is subject to the initiative attracting high-quality bids that can be progressed to contract, as well as the approval of the Carbon Trust's investment committee to proceed at each stage of the initiative. It will allow the Carbon Trust to further increase the materiality and impact of its advanced bioenergy research and development activities.

Copies of the consultation have been placed in the Library of the House and are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 16 October 2008

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Energy and New Nuclear Power

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Mr. Mike O'Brien): My right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform wrote to the Business and Enterprise Select Committee in September to inform members of EDF's takeover offer for British Energy. I am placing copies of his letter in the Libraries of the House.

EU Energy Council

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): I represented the UK at the Energy Council in Luxembourg on 10 October.

The Council reached political agreement on the Commission's third energy package on the functioning of the internal energy market. There were discussions of the climate and energy legislative package and energy security. The Council agreed conclusions on energy efficiency.

Discussions on the internal energy market were based on compromise presidency texts and focused on a "level playing field" clause, put forward by a number of member states as a way of allowing Governments, which have secured ownership unbundling in their domestic markets, to control takeovers by vertically integrated companies. The final presidency compromise text met their concerns and political agreement was reached on this basis. This will allow the Council to prepare a common position, which will form the basis of negotiation with the European Parliament.

There was a wide-ranging debate on the 2020 climate and energy package. The presidency argued that in the current financial crisis it was even more important for the EU to maintain political leadership on climate issues and urged member states not to lose momentum on progress. The Commission and presidency both considered that it was possible to reach agreement on the package by the end of the year.

In the debate, member states addressed a number of issues (interim targets, the inclusion of aviation, the transport target and sustainability, a review clause and renewable projects of European interest) set out in questions issued by the presidency to steer the debate. The presidency concluded that, despite concerns about the financial crisis, there was a common desire to move forward and discussion with the European Parliament should continue.

The Council agreed conclusions on energy efficiency, relating to the implementation the energy labelling and eco-design for energy-using products directive.

There were a number of information items, including a presidency report on the solar plan for the Mediterranean.

Discussion of energy security was taken over lunch in closed session.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Fly-tipping

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jane Kennedy): I am today depositing copies of the annual report on the number of incidents of fly-tipping recorded by local authorities on the Government's Fly-capture database in 2007-08. This report gives detailed information on the number and type of incidents, the type of land where the incident occurred and the estimated cost to authorities of dealing with it.

I am pleased to announce that there was a reduction of 7.5 per cent. in the number of recorded fly-tipping incidents from 2006-07. I am also pleased to highlight the good work carried out by local authorities in increasing the number of enforcement actions against fly-tipping by 26 per cent. from the previous year.

DEFRA will continue to work with the Environment Agency and local authorities to prevent illegal waste activity through a combination of prevention, education and enforcement.

This report is also available from the DEFRA website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/ENVIRONMENT/localenv/flytipping/flycapture.htm

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Pay

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): On 8 January 2008 I wrote to the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) asking them to consider a multi-year deal for police officers starting in September 2008. In my letter I made clear that, if the PNB agreed to this proposal, then the settlements that form part of such a deal could be implemented in full.

On 15 October 2008 the PNB recommended to me a multi-year pay deal for police officers starting in 2008. This deal is for an award of 2.65 per cent. from 1 September 2008, 2.6 per cent. from 1 September 2009, and 2.55 per cent. from 1 September 2010. This means by 2010 a police constable will be able to earn up to £36,500, 50 per cent. more than in 1997. It includes a reopener clause that would be triggered by changes in the two criteria of economic and labour market conditions and recruitment and retention.

I am pleased that we have agreed a multi-year pay deal for the police that is one of the fairest pay deals in the public sector. All involved in the negotiations have worked hard, and in a spirit of co-operation. I have the highest regard for the police and the tireless work they do to protect and serve the public. This deal gives police officers and their families valuable financial certainty for the future and I hope that it will reach their pay packets in full in time for Christmas. This deal will also

provide the benefits of stability to the police service, and demonstrates discipline in the face of temporarily high inflation and current economic conditions.

I have also agreed, for the period of this settlement, that the Home Secretary will be bound by a decision of the Police Arbitration Tribunal (PAT) as to whether the re- opening criteria have been met. I would of course carefully consider any recommendation made to me by the PNB or PAT about a subsequent substantive adjustment to the settlement arising from this process.

I confirm that as a result of this agreement I will end the current consultation process for a police pay review body and that the Government will not take any legislative steps to introduce a police pay review body during the lifetime of this Parliament.

I believe that this agreement signals a new stage in the relationship between the two sides of the Police Negotiating Board. I hope that we can now work together to improve policing for both the police service and the public.

Immigration Rules (Visitors)

The Minister of State, Home Department (Mr. Phil Woolas): This year sees the biggest changes to Britain's immigration and border security system for 45 years. Our policy will deliver strong borders, a selective migration system and an expectation that newcomers earn the right to stay. Our ambition is that migration policy maximises benefits for Britain and manages local impacts.

This strategy underpins our Australian style points system, reforms to spouse visas and requires us to modernise visit visas. Earlier this year, my predecessor published our strategy for comprehensively overhauling our visit visa system. Today we are publishing a further statement on the first of these changes with the creation of a separate category for business, sport, entertainer and special visitors. Copies are being placed in the Library of the House.

In modernising this system, our ambition is twofold: to let legitimate visitors connect with the UK quickly, and to strengthen still further our border security.

The statement sets out the key features of the arrangements for business, sport, entertainer and special visitors respectively.

In respect of business visitors we are bringing currently separate immigration rules and concessions together in one coherent visa; and making clear what business visitors can do here and what they cannot. We believe, after consulting stakeholders, that having a list of permissible activities is a good way of defining them.

We are introducing a new visa to provide for visiting sports-people based on the current concessionary arrangement. Our purpose here is to ensure that the contribution of overseas visiting sports people to the UK's sporting tradition continues as now, while making clear the circumstances in which sports people can come to the UK outside of the points-based system for participation in sport.

Similarly, we are introducing a new visa to provide for visiting entertainers and the circumstances in which they may come to the UK in that capacity, outside of the points-based system. In effect, we are retaining the current concessionary arrangement while removing two criteria relating to festivals that add little value to the current arrangements.

Lastly, there are a number of groups of visitors for whom specific immigration rules have been introduced as a need was identified or for which concessions existed outside the rules. The new special visitor visa brings these together although the specific criteria that currently apply to each of these categories would be retained.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Commons Calendar

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I am today announcing details of the House of Commons calendar until October 2009, details of which can be found on the Leader's Office website at www.CommonsLeader.gov.uk.

The House will rise for the Christmas recess at the end of business on Thursday 18 December 2008, returning on Monday 12 January 2009. The constituency recess week will begin at the end of business on Thursday 12 February, the House will return on Monday 23 February. The House will rise on Thursday 2 April for the Easter recess, returning on Monday 20 April. The Whitsun recess will begin at the end of the sitting on Thursday 21 May and the House will return on Monday 1 June.

The House will rise for the summer on Tuesday 21 July, returning on Monday 12 October. The Friday dates for consideration of Private Members' Bills will be 27 February, 6 March, 13 March, 20 March, 27 March, 24 April, 8 May, 15 May, 12 June, 19 June, 26 June, 3 July and 16 October.

All dates given are provisional and subject to the progress of business. Copies of the printed calendar can be obtained from the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Pensions Appeal Tribunal

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The senior president of tribunals and I are today issuing the following joint statement:

We are making this joint statement in recognition of the concerns expressed by members of the armed forces community about the possible impact on the service which the Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT) (England and Wales) provides for them as a result of implementing the Act.

To reflect the special nature of a jurisdiction serving those who alone in this country contract with the state to lay down their lives in its service and in recognition of the special relationship between service personnel and the Government as characterised by Command Paper (CM 7424—"The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government support to our armed forces, their families and veterans"), it has been decided to establish a 'War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Chamber' within the first-tier tribunal to ensure that service personnel can benefit from the advantages of being within the new tribunal structure, whilst ensuring that the unique nature of the jurisdiction is not compromised or diluted.

The implementation of the Act will bring benefits to this jurisdiction, including extended rights of appeal, a guarantee of continued judicial independence, the ability readily to draw upon suitably qualified judges and medical experts within the wider tribunal system if required, greater judicial support and influence; a more efficient administrative support; and access to the entire Tribunals Services' hearing venue network. None of this will be at the expense of the level of service now provided by the Pensions Appeal Tribunal (England and Wales). Our aim in making this statement is to ensure that the armed forces community are reassured that the valued features of the PAT are preserved and protected in the new system.

This joint statement explains the basis on which the work of the PAT (England and Wales) will transfer into the first-tier tribunal under section 30 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, if Parliament approves the draft Transfer of Tribunal Functions Order 2008.

That order transfers the functions of the PAT (England and Wales) into the first-tier tribunal. That tribunal enjoys a statutory guarantee of continued judicial independence under section 3 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, as amended by section 1 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. The present PATs do not have such a guarantee although in practice they are independent of Government. The transfer also makes it possible for there to be a further appeal on a question of law against assessment decisions by claimants in all parts of the United Kingdom, something which is not possible under the existing statutory framework.

The first-tier tribunal will be divided into a number of chambers by an order made under section 7 of the 2007 Act. The First-Tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal (Chambers) Order 2008 provides for the first-tier tribunal to be organised into chambers, including a separate war pensions and armed forces compensation chamber. The order assigns all of the functions of the current PAT (England and Wales) to that chamber. The order has the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor and the Senior President and has been laid before Parliament.

Procedural rules specific to the war pensions and armed forces compensation chamber have been drafted and signed by the Tribunal Procedure Committee, following consultation with ex-service organisations, their advisers and the President of PAT (England and Wales) The rules have been submitted to the Lord Chancellor and have been laid before Parliament. In establishing rules that are specific to this chamber those who currently use PAT (England and Wales) will have the same level of procedural protection as users of the PATs in Scotland and Northern Ireland, as rules will be made with the specific needs of this jurisdiction only in mind. Members of the armed forces community were concerned that this protection would not be provided if the chamber shared rules with other chambers in the first-tier tribunal.

In further recognition of the special relationship, other measures have been taken to ensure that appeal panels must include those who understand the particular nature of service in the armed forces, and for the jurisprudence in Scotland, Northern Ireland and England and Wales to remain consistent.

The Senior President of Tribunals has produced a draft practice statement on composition of tribunals. The President and Deputy President of the PAT have been consulted on the draft and are in agreement with it. The draft practice statement requires the continued use of service members on hearing panels within the war pensions and armed forces compensation chamber and maintains their present role without diminution or alteration. The Qualifications for Appointment of Members to the First-Tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal Order, as laid before Parliament, requires that service members have considerable experience of service in Her Majesty's naval, military or air forces.

A decision made at a hearing of an appeal in this chamber will normally be dealt with by a three member panel of one judge, one service member and one medical member. Alternatively, but only where the chamber President considers it appropriate, a decision at a hearing may be dealt with by a four member panel of one judge, one service member and two medical members. Panels are expected to strive to reach a unanimous decision.

Appeals from the war pensions and armed forces compensation chamber and from the PATs in Scotland will lie to the upper tribunal created by the 2007 Act, which will take over the jurisdiction of the Pension Appeal Commissioners. Assessment appeals from the PATs in Northern Ireland will also lie to the upper tribunal and entitlement appeals will continue to go to the Pension Appeal Commissioners in Northern Ireland who are themselves judges of the upper tribunal. We therefore expect that the jurisprudence will develop in a common and coherent way across the United Kingdom.

The Lord Chancellor will in addition establish within three months an advisory steering group for armed services work with an independent chair. Representatives of charities who represent appellants at appeal hearings and proposed by COBSEO will be invited to join this group, as will representatives of the judiciary and administration for the PATs in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The remit of the group will include consideration of the implementation of existing procedures, changes the Government or tribunal proposes to make to the procedures, and the applicability of any such changes across the jurisdictions.

The Lord Chancellor will ensure that staff deployed on armed services' work will be staff who understand armed services' requirements and who will work in effective liaison with the organisations who represent users.

Branding will continue to be distinct so that users understand they are dealing with a specialist armed forces jurisdiction.

The aim of making this statement is to set out how the valued features of the PAT are preserved and protected in the new system in recognition of the unique role of the armed forces community, and in acknowledgement of the concerns that were raised in response to the consultation on implementation of Part 1 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I attended the first Transport Council of the French presidency in Luxembourg on 9 October.

Following a debate on the draft conclusions presented by the presidency on the greening of transport, the Council failed to achieve unanimity. It is likely that the Council will return to this issue in December.

There was a policy debate on the proposal for a directive on cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety. A key issue in the debate was whether the proposal could be adopted under the first pillar, as currently intended by the presidency and supported by some member states, or whether it should be a third pillar (Justice and Home Affairs) issue. The UK expressed its view that the third pillar would be the correct legal base. Pointing out the UK's strong record in this area, we recognised the concerns and underlying objectives of the proposal, but stressed that it was necessary to go forward with practical measures. The majority of member states supported a third pillar approach. Following this debate, work will continue in the working group and Coreper, and it is expected that the issue will return to the Council in December.

The Council agreed conclusions on third countries' participation in the inclusion of aviation in the EU emissions trading scheme, following agreement on the EC directive earlier in the year. The conclusions were acceptable to the UK.

The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations towards a Euro-Mediterranean aviation agreement with the Republic of Lebanon. The UK supports this negotiating mandate.

The Council reached a general approach on an amendment to the regulation establishing a joint undertaking for the SESAR programme (technical implementation of the Single European Sky). The Council also adopted a resolution launching the development phase of the programme. Both the amending regulation and the resolution are acceptable to the UK.

Under other business, the Commission gave a progress report on negotiations on the proposed EU/Canada air transport agreement. The UK supported the presidency's proposal that the Commission be asked to finalise negotiations on the emerging agreement and report back to the Council on the outcome.

The Council reached political agreement on proposals for directives on the responsibility of EU member states which are flag states and the insurance requirements of shipowners. These were substantially amended versions. Negotiations before and during the Council led to further welcome amendments. The presidency and Commission also made clear that the European Parliament would only negotiate on the complete third maritime safety package with these two amended proposals included. Taking all of this into account, the UK supported the agreements on both of the significantly amended proposals.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 17 October 2008

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Britain Report

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): The Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting, Lord Carter, is today launching a joint programme of work by my Department and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which will lead to a digital Britain report (DBR) in the spring of 2009.

Information and Communications Technologies and Broadcasting account for 5.9 per cent. of GDP, £52 billion-plus of turnover and 500,000 jobs. Indirectly they are critical to every business in the economy and to people's quality of life.

The Government have already undertaken much important work in this area, particularly:

The recently published Cairo review on next generation broadband access;

The Digital Radio Working Group currently scheduled to deliver a report in December;

The recent memorandum of understanding to address file sharing between internet service providers and rights holders;

The Byron review on children and new technology leading to the UK Council for Child Internet Safety;

The work of the convergence think tank; and

The digital inclusion action plan.

This sits alongside complementary strategic work by the industry regulator Ofcom, for example on public service broadcasting and regulation of broadband and by the UK Intellectual Property Office on adapting our copyright framework to meet the challenges of the digital age.

A growing body of evidence shows us that convergence—the coming together of different means of delivering content (television, radio, mobile and internet)—has already arrived for many people in many situations, and that policy approaches need to reflect that fact. We now need to prepare to take the next steps to prepare Britain for a future beyond convergence. The DBR will provide the platform to do this.

The overall strategic objective of the DBR will be to ensure the UK maximises the benefits of convergence right across the economy and society. This will be delivered by achieving the public policy objectives of open markets; empowered and informed consumers and citizens; universal access to public service content; and a responsive regulatory framework.

Within these public policy objectives, there will be nine areas of focus, around which the report will consider what future legislative and non-legislative measures are required, resulting in a detailed action plan. The structure of the report will be as follows (some areas of study will inform more than one policy objective; for simplicity they are listed under the category they most strongly match):

A. Open markets providing investment, innovation and choice, at all levels of the value chain including infrastructure, service provision and creation of content:

Broadband development: examining options for maximising participation and levels of service across the UK.

Digital radio: identifying barriers to wider investment and development of digital radio platforms, and drawing lessons from the current digital switchover television programme.

Investment in content: exploring business models for content development in a digital age, and the impact of new media on the content market.

Spectrum: identifying the barriers to the release of spectrum and a fully functioning market in the trading and use of spectrum.

B. Empowered and informed consumers and citizens fully equipped to take advantage of the opportunities convergence brings:

Internet: looking at a range of issues affecting internet users, such as user security and safety and a workable approach to promoting content standards.

Media literacy and IT skills: identifying inhibitors to IT take-up and barriers to maximising the economic and social effects of digital technologies including empowering consumers.

C. Universal access to high quality, public service content through appropriate mechanisms for a converged digital age:

Public service broadcasting and content: evaluating the impact of digitalisation and the new technologies on public service broadcasting assets and public service licences, in the UK as a whole and in the nations and regions.

Independent production: examining how to ensure the health of a vibrant independent production sector, including examining the impact of the current quota system.

D. A responsive regulatory framework that maximises investment and innovation by providing certainty and equipping regulators with the right tools to achieve their objectives:

Intellectual property: the UK Intellectual Property Office will take forward work to deliver adigital copyright framework which supports creativity, investment and job creation in these important sectors."

A copy of this statement will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Letter from Lord Carter:

DIGITAL BRITAIN REPORT

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has made the following statement in the House of Commons:

The Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting, Lord Carter, is today launching a joint programme of work by my Department and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which will lead to a digital Britain report (DBR) in the spring of 2009.

Information and Communications Technologies and Broadcasting account for 5.9 per cent. of GDP, £52 billion-plus of turnover and 500,000 jobs. Indirectly they are critical to every business in the economy and to people's quality of life.

The Government have already undertaken much important work in this area, particularly:

The recently published Cairo review on next generation broadband access;

The Digital Radio Working Group currently scheduled to deliver a report in December;

The recent memorandum of understanding to address file sharing between internet service providers and rights holders;

The Byron review on children and new technology leading to the UK Council for Child Internet Safety;

The work of the convergence think tank; and

The digital inclusion action plan.

This sits alongside complementary strategic work by the industry regulator Ofcom, for example on public service broadcasting and regulation of broadband and by the UK Intellectual Property Office on adapting our copyright framework to meet the challenges of the digital age.

A growing body of evidence shows us that convergence—the coming together of different means of delivering content (television, radio, mobile and internet)—has already arrived for many people in many situations, and that policy approaches need to reflect that fact. We now need to prepare to take the next steps to prepare Britain for a future beyond convergence. The DBR will provide the platform to do this.

The overall strategic objective of the DBR will be to ensure the UK maximises the benefits of convergence right across the economy and society. This will be delivered by achieving the public policy objectives of open markets; empowered and informed consumers and citizens; universal access to public service content; and a responsive regulatory framework.

Within these public policy objectives, there will be nine areas of focus, around which the report will consider what future legislative and non-legislative measures are required, resulting in a detailed action plan. The structure of the report will be as follows (some areas of study will inform more than one policy objective; for simplicity they are listed under the category they most strongly match):

A. Open markets providing investment, innovation and choice, at all levels of the value chain including infrastructure, service provision and creation of content:

Broadband development: examining options for maximising participation and levels of service across the UK.

Digital radio: identifying barriers to wider investment and development of digital radio platforms, and drawing lessons from the current digital switchover television programme.

Investment in content: exploring business models for content development in a digital age, and the impact of new media on the content market.

Spectrum: identifying the barriers to the release of spectrum and a fully functioning market in the trading and use of spectrum.

B. Empowered and informed consumers and citizens fully equipped to take advantage of the opportunities convergence brings:

Internet: looking at a range of issues affecting internet users, such as user security and safety and a workable approach to promoting content standards.

Media literacy and IT skills: identifying inhibitors to IT take-up and barriers to maximising the economic and social effects of digital technologies including empowering consumers.

C. Universal access to high quality, public service content through appropriate mechanisms for a converged digital age:

Public service broadcasting and content: evaluating the impact of digitalisation and the new technologies on public service broadcasting assets and public service licences, in the UK as a whole and in the nations and regions.

Independent production: examining how to ensure the health of a vibrant independent production sector, including examining the impact of the current quota system.

D. A responsive regulatory framework that maximises investment and innovation by providing certainty and equipping regulators with the right tools to achieve their objectives:

Intellectual property: the UK Intellectual Property Office will take forward work to deliver a digital copyright framework which supports creativity, investment and job creation in these important sectors.

DEFENCE

Nimrod Update

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The House will recall the circumstances surrounding the loss of Nimrod XV230 in September 2006 which led to the tragic death of 14 service personnel. The subsequent Board of Inquiry recommended that the ageing aircraft audit be reviewed to include aircraft systems. In order to ensure that we found the most robust way possible of meeting this recommendation and tightening up our safety and maintenance procedures we decided to conduct a forensic-level teardown of a Nimrod aircraft. This approach is extremely rigorous, and the first time that we have conducted this sort of exercise.

We wanted to gain the most information possible from this process. Therefore we selected XV236 because it was due to go into its five-yearly major maintenance refit and it is one of most heavily used aircraft on operations in our fleet. The work, which is being conducted by QinetiQ, began in August.

QinetiQ has provided an initial report which sets out the result of an extensive visual inspection, conducted as a precursor to the teardown work itself. This inspection has revealed a number of faults and husbandry issues, which had not been recorded in the aircraft's maintenance documentation. There were examples of corrosion, scratches in the aircraft structure, and some damage and deterioration. Apart from the aircraft structure scratching and a cable anchoring issue, both of which were investigated across the fleet to ensure that other aircraft were not similarly affected, the issues were individually minor in nature.

We immediately commissioned a separate thorough investigation in response to the teardown report to assess whether the individual and cumulative impact of these issues had any serious airworthiness implications. They did not, and it was concluded that the Nimrod remains safe to fly. This investigation was carried out in conjunction with QinetiQ and BAE Systems with each issue identified in the QinetiQ report being analysed, explained and remedial action identified where required. This has formed the basis for a companion report that places the initial QinetiQ report into its proper context.

We have also initiated an inspection of the Nimrod fleet to ensure that maintenance procedures are being rigorously applied. It is well underway and will be completed by the end of October.

Copies of both reports are today being placed in the Library of the House and the MOD website. The material is also being passed to Mr Haddon-Cave QC for inclusion in his review.

The teardown work will generate quarterly reports, setting out the findings and conclusions reached. We propose to adopt a similar approach to each of these reports and to make them available in the same way. In the meantime QinetiQ staff, the MOD's integrated project team, and the design authority, BAE Systems, remain closely engaged to ensure that any issues that might require immediate attention or investigation are known and understood. If at any point QinetiQ identify a serious airworthiness issue during the teardown they have been asked to raise it immediately with the MOD, in order that we can take swift action.

Petitions

Monday 6 October 2008

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

PETITION PRESENTED

Planning and Development (Hampshire)

The Petition of the Bordon for Option 1 Group

Declares that the Whitehill/Bordon Opportunity Town Enlargement and/or Bordon Eco-Town Development expansion proposals are not appropriate to the character of this small country town. Because of the size of the proposed town enlargement it will have an excessive and undesirable impact on the surrounding areas. The Petitioners respectfully ask that the currently proposed over-development plan for Bordon be stopped. This small town and its surroundings contain characteristics and important heathland and other biodiversity rich habitats, which will be lost or substantially damaged, even if they are mitigated for, by these development proposals and options.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to limit the expansion of the town at Whitehill/Bordon to no more than 2000 houses and associated infrastructure: and to insist that the proposed town expansion should be situated only on the future brownfield sites that are currently barracks, which are to be vacated by the MOD in the town.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. [P000270]

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Essex)

The Humble Petition of the customers of 553 London Road Post Office, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9LJ and others,

Sheweth

That said Post Office is widely used by the residents of Southend West and is a vital resource for our community of inestimable value to its elderly and most vulnerable constituents.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House do request that the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform instruct the Chief Executive of the Royal Mail Group to keep 553 London Road Post Office open.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. David Amess, Official Report*, 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 622 .] [P000255]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, received 6 August 2008:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for East Essex and Suffolk has ended and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL have confirmed that the London Road Post Office is to close. Details will be made available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Halifax)

The Petition of those opposed to the decision to close Holmfield Post Office,

Declares that they do not believe that the Post Office has given consideration to the range of customers using this branch and the impact of its closure on the community; a large proportion of customers will find it difficult to travel to the suggested alternatives. Further declares that the Holmfield Community is also growing rapidly with a high number of new businesses moving into the areas and current businesses expanding. This they are sure will guarantee the viability of this branch for many years to come.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Holmfield Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Linda Riordan, Official Report,* 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 621 .] [P000246]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, received 11 September 2008:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. POL has announced final decisions for the West Yorkshire area plan. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that Holmfield Post Office is to close. Details of the closures are available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;

where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Merseyside)

The Petition of Birkenhead consitituents opposed to Post Office closure,

Declares that Holt Hill Post Office should remain open.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business and Enterprise to keep Holt Hill Post Office open, as losing a local Post Office will be a detrimental loss when no other alternative is presented.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Frank Field, Official Report,* 22 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 24P .] [P000266]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, received 11 September 2008:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network

allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services. The General Secretary of the National Federation of Sub Postmasters said at the start of the change programme: "Although regrettable we believe that closures are necessary to ensure the remaining post offices are able to thrive in the future".

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Merseyside finished on 17 December. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL have confirmed the proposed closure of Holt Hill Post Office. Details of the closures and any further reviews are available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;

where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Shropshire)

The Petition of users of Post Offices in the Ludlow Constituency,

Declares that plans to close 14 Post Offices in the Ludlow constituency, 9 of which are in the last remaining shop in the village, will affect many users of Post Office services, particularly vulnerable people with limited access to alternative branches and undermine sustainability of the local community. Withdrawal of the Post Office from the local shop will threaten the future of many remaining village shops, and introduction of a mobile van service for a few hours a week in 7 villages does nothing to reduce this threat to our communities.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to be aware of the Petitioners concerns against closure of Post Offices in the Ludlow constituency and to instruct Post Office Ltd to halt the closure of these Post Offices.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Philip Dunne, Official Report,* 9 June 2008; Vol. 477, c. 133 .] [P000209]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, received 25 July 2008:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations (operated in partnership with other local services, such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices) will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned.

Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Shropshire and Staffordshire, including the Ludlow constituency, finished on 9 June, and POL will publish its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website in due course. I understand that in 6 of the cases where the post office is the only shop in the village there will be an Outreach replacement service. Details of the closures and any further reviews will be available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access (such as local geography), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL, in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. After the public consultation process, the review process will apply when Postwatch shows that:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this final stage, the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of users of Montford Bridge Post Office,

Declares that that the plan to close five Post Offices in the Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency will have a detrimental effect on the lives of local residents. The local Post Office is a vital and integral element of the local community, supporting social interaction between residents. They should not simply be assessed on an economic basis without taking into consideration the social economic value they offer to the local community. The proposed partial replacement of three of the Post Offices earmarked for closure by a mobile vehicle with restricted hours, and in some cases parked on the side of roads or in lay-bys, is a substandard solution not benefiting the world we live in today.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to instruct Post Office Ltd. to ensure that Montford Bridge Post Office is kept open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Daniel Kawczynski, Official Report,* 25 June 2008; Vol. 478, c. 465 .] [P000215]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, received 11 September 2008:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Shropshire and Staffordshire ended on 9 June and POL published its final decision on 1 July. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that it is to proceed with the proposed closure of the Montford Bridge branch and its replacement with an Outreach service. The Area Plan Decision Booklet for Shropshire and Staffordshire is available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post

office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Car Boot Sale (Catchpenny Farm)

The Petition of concerned members of the public,

Declares that the mid-weekly car boot sale and market at Catchpenny Farm, near Fitzwilliam has, for the moment, ceased. The Petitioners believe that this mid-weekly market has been beneficial to the local economy, contributes to strengthening the community and is highly popular. The Petitioners further expect, since they pay their Council Tax to Wakefield MDC, that this Council exists to promote economic development and community well-being and therefore will wish to restore the weekly car boot sale and market.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to do all in its power to co-operate with Wakefield MDC in order to reinstate a mid-weekly car boot sale and market such as the one formerly held at Catchpenny Farm near Fitzwilliam.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jon Trickett, Official Report,* 10 June 2008; Vol. 477, c. 280.]

[P000211]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, received 31 July 2008:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners in relation to the cessation of the Catchpenny Farm car boot sale and market.

It is understood that the car boot sale and market at Catchpenny Farm, Fitzwilliam, ceased following action taken by Wakefield Metropolitan District Council through the Courts to secure an injunction against the operator.

Primary responsibility for the day to day administration of planning control rightly rests with the local planning authority for an area. Local planning authorities are best placed to carry out what is in their view proper planning for their areas. They have a wide range of discretionary enforcement powers to enable them to deal with unauthorised development and can, if they feel an unauthorised development is unacceptable, take enforcement action against those concerned. They can also take action in the Courts under section 187B of the Town and Country Planning Act where they consider it expedient for any actual, or apprehended breaches of planning control to be restricted.

It is for the local authority concerned to determine whether Civil or enforcement action should be taken in any particular case and, if so, the type of action appropriate, taking account of local circumstances. These are not matters in which the Secretary of State would become involved, unless an appeal is made against an enforcement notice issued by a local planning authority. It would not therefore be appropriate for the Secretary of State to offer any comments or observations on the propositions raised by this petition.

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of J Everett, the residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that they suspect that there is a hidden agenda in respect of the public open space bounded by the Chase Thundersley on the north side, and by Runneymede Chase on the east side. They have reached this conclusion firstly because a large area adjacent to the annex of the SEEVIC College has been fenced off and they challenge the legal right for this to have been done. Second because Castle Point councillors have decided to no longer regularly cut the grass allowing it to become largely overgrown, and they suspect this is an attempt by councillors to deter people from using the public open space so that the land can be developed. Third, because lately it appears that students of SEEVIC College have been allowed or encouraged to take over the area during breaks, making other users of this public open space feel like interlopers and leaving the space littered with food wrappers, drinks cans and bottles and other rubbish, adding to its dereliction. They further believe that this land, like all public assets, belongs to the people, not to the council or the councillors, and councillors should respect that fact and keep the public fully informed of their and their officers' discussions and intentions regarding land use and the future of all our public assets. They therefore urge councillors to return this land to full and proper public use and to protect it in future, for many valid planning and community interest reasons, and to ensure that this matter is dealt with by councillors rather than officers given its importance to the wider community and the need to protect their valuable public open spaces.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press all Castle Point councillors, since they have the direct responsibility for this matter, to ensure this public open space is retained for its ancient and established previous use and to immediately publish its discussions and intentions regarding land in this area and behind the Runnemede swimming pool and to be transparent in future with the public on all planning and land use matters.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 2 July 2008; Vol. 478, c. 994.]

[P000227]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, received 31 July 2008:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the land bounded by the Chase Thundersley on the north side and by Runneymede Chase on the east side.

It is our understanding that the land which is subject of proposals by SEEVIC is not public open space and has been allocated for Local Government purposes. This area has been fenced and SEEVIC have applied to Castle Point Borough Council for planning permission to build on this land. The land concerned is bounded to the north by an area of public open space which has not been fenced. Further information on planning, including the minutes of meetings of the Planning Committee are publicly available on the Council's website.

Planning and Development (Salisbury)

The Petition of the citizens of South Wiltshire,

Declares that the Government proposals to impose the building of an additional 12,400 houses on our community will change forever the character of this unique part of rural England's landscape and heritage; has been proposed with inadequate time for proper consultation; is not supported by proposals for new physical or social infrastructure and will result in the loss of prime agricultural land.

Further declares that the underlying planning assumptions of economic and population growth in central southern England are speculative and flawed and ignore the special nature of the open landscape and natural environment which enhances biodiversity in a precious, pollution-free, low-carbon area which is as important to the whole of England as the speculative construction of new houses.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to annul these proposals and bearing in mind the imminent abolition of Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire County council and their replacement by a new Unitary Wiltshire Council as Planning Authority to delay any decision on future housing options for at least one year and to leave development policy in the hands of their locally-elected planning authority, pursuing organic and sustainable growth in our local economy and in the provision of new homes.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Robert Key, Official Report,* 12 June 2008; Vol. 477, c. 566.]
[P000212]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, received 31 July 2008:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the recommendations of the Panel Report into the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South West in relation to the future development of Salisbury and south Wiltshire.

As the process of producing the draft South West RSS is bound by regulation and propriety guidance, which seeks to put all interested parties on an even footing, it is not possible to discuss the merits of the Regional Spatial Strategy or the recommendations of the independent Panel Report at this stage.

This guidance is to ensure that the process is fair and transparent and that representations to the Secretary of State are channelled through the proper statutory consultation process.

The position in respect of the draft South West RSS is that Government is currently considering its response to the recommendations in the Panel Report. The next stage in the process is the publication, for public consultation, of the Government's own Proposed Changes to the draft RSS which will occur in late July 2008. This will provide an opportunity for interested parties to make further representations.

Following consideration of comments and views arising from that consultation, the Secretary of State is expecting to publish the final Regional Spatial Strategy before the end of 2008.

With regard to the new Unitary Wiltshire Council, members of this new planning authority, once elected in 2009, will be able to determine how development plan documents address the requirements of the adopted South West RSS, including policies to meet the need for housing requirements in south Wiltshire. The Government also understands that Salisbury District Council is carrying out a further period of public consultation later this year on the options for housing growth in Salisbury and south Wiltshire for its Core Strategy development plan document. This Core Strategy is intended to form a part of the future development plan for Wiltshire for which the new unitary authority will be responsible. CLG is currently discussing transitional measures with Joint Implementation Teams in each area affected by restructuring, and will lay any necessary regulations before the House in due course.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Television Switchover

The Petition of those concerned about the extent of Freeview services in the Borders as a result of digital television switchover.,

Declares that, in November 2008, the Borders will be the first region in the UK to make the switch from analogue to digital television. Many people in this area receive their television picture from a relay transmitter, but after switchover they will not receive all the available channels on Freeview. Instead, they will receive a much reduced service known as 'Freeview Lite'. Many channels enjoyed by viewers elsewhere will not be available to viewers who rely on relay transmitters for their television picture. Further declares that this situation is unfair.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to urgently review the impact of the digital television switchover on the Borders area and to take steps to intervene to prevent Borderers from missing out and ensuring that viewers in the Borders who currently receive their television signal from a relay are provided with all the Freeview channels after digital switchover.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Michael Moore, Official Report,* 15 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 212 .]
[P000244]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, received 29 August 2008:

Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) coverage is expected to reach 98.5% of households—the same as analogue terrestrial coverage. As part of the digital licensing regime, and to assist with Switchover, Ofcom require the Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) multiplex (mux) operators to maintain audience reach by broadcasting from all 1154 transmitters.

The Government and Ofcom are committed to ensuring that digital coverage for the five PSB channels will substantially match current analogue services—98.5% of UK households—at digital switchover.

There are six digital TV multiplexes in the UK. Three are operated by PSBs and three are commercially-owned multiplexes. Even those who receive only the three PSB multiplexes still receive 20 of the most watched channels which is a much wider choice than is currently available with analogue television.

Coverage by the commercial mux operators is a commercial matter for them, although coverage levels post switchover cannot fall below current levels. That is as a minimum, they must broadcast from the 81 main transmitter sites, which gives 90% household coverage. In deciding whether to go beyond this level, they must make a judgement about the necessary investment needed to generate a marginal increase in coverage from each transmitter converted. It is worth noting that even if the multiplex operators were willing to build out the transmission network, there is only sufficient spectrum to enable coverage to be extended to 95% of households.

Digital UK will be making it clear to people who want more channels that they will still have a number of options for going digital, including non-subscription services such as PSB Freesat or Freesat from Sky. Digital Satellite services are available now to 98% of UK households.

The petition declares that in November 2008, the Borders will be the first region in the UK to make the switch from analogue to digital television. I should like to draw the petitioner's attention to Whitehaven/Copeland, Cumbria, which became the first area in the UK to successfully complete the digital TV switchover in November 2007. There has been extensive assessment of the Whitehaven switchover process and my Department—along with Digital UK, Ofcom and the Help Scheme—will ensure that future regions benefit from the lessons learnt during this first switchover phase.

DEFENCE

Admiral John Byng

The Petition of the friends of All Saints Southill, the parishioners of Southill, Byng family members and the supporters of Admiral John Byng,

Declares that the conduct at his trail and the verdict of his trial in December 1756 and January/February 1757, which resulted in his execution on 14th March 1757 was unfair and unjust. Further declares that he was made the scapegoat for the inadequacies of the Government and his Naval Superiors at the time, whom the Petitioners believe to have been responsible for the loss of Menorca to the French.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Ministry for Defence and the Ministry for Justice to review the trial and the verdict of that trial, resulting in Admiral John Byng being declared innocent posthumously; his Honour should be restored for him, his family and supporters.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Alistair Burt, Official Report,* 19 March 2008; Vol. 473, c. 1050.]

[P000153]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Defence, received 30 July 2008:

The Admiral's case is well documented and I am aware of the considerable sympathy and admiration that many have felt for him. Indeed, one cannot fail to admire his courage and generosity of spirit when faced with execution.

The petition alleges unfairness and lack of justice in the conduct of his trial. However, I should point out that the conduct of the Court Martial, its verdict and the sentence were the subject of comprehensive and extensive review at the time. Whilst fairness is a subjective concept, the matter of unjustness is not. A properly constituted Court Martial was held in accordance with the regulations in force at that time, and resulted in a sentence that was fully in accordance with the, then, Articles of War. Although the thirteen senior naval officers who presided at the Court Martial were unanimous in their verdict, the Admiralty, Courts and Parliament exhausted all avenues available to them in seeking to absolve Admiral Byng of the charges against him. This included the final step in the appeal process, an application to the Monarch for clemency. This was refused.

This petition asks for the trial and verdict to be reviewed and for Admiral Byng to be declared innocent posthumously, thereby restoring his honour. Having considered this request several times previously, my view remains that it would not be appropriate to attempt to re-open this case. I take this view notwithstanding the merits or otherwise of the case but because it is a matter which has passed out of living memory and into history. In these circumstances, it has become a subject for historical scrutiny and not for Government intervention.

Gurkhas (Citizenship and Pensions)

The Petition of the Havant Ex-Servicemen's Club, the Havant Royal British Legion and others of like disposition.

Declares that the treatment of Gurkhas is an ongoing disgrace: Gurkhas who retired from the British Army after 1997 can automatically stay in the UK, but those who retired earlier must apply for citizenship, and many have been refused and face deportation. Pension rights for years served by Gurkhas before 1997 count at only around a quarter of the level of years served after that time.

Further declares their support for the fifty Nepalese soldiers who handed back their Long Service and Good Conduct medals in March 2008, in protest at the difference in treatment of Gurkhas with other British soldiers, such as those from the Commonwealth.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Defence to ensure that all ex-Ghurkha soldiers and their families British citizenship on leaving the service.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Willetts, Official Report,* 8 July 2008; Vol. 478, c. 24P .]

[P000228]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Defence, received 19 August 2008:

The Government fully recognises the courage and commitment that the Gurkhas have given to this country over many decades and greatly values the contribution of the Gurkhas both past and present.

Gurkha service in the British Army is enabled through an agreement made between the Governments of the

UK, Nepal and India in 1947, the Tripartite Agreement. The Tripartite Agreement permits the recruitment in Nepal of Nepalese citizens into the British Army's Brigade of Gurkhas, something that ultimately depends upon the goodwill of the Government of Nepal.

Gurkhas who served on or after 1 July 1997 are entitled to be granted settlement in the UK and then to apply for citizenship. Extending this entitlement to those who served before 1 July 1997 as a reward for military service would not be in line with Home Office immigration rules. The current arrangements recognise that since July 1997, the close residential or physical ties to the UK required to comply with immigration rules have developed for the Gurkha soldier, and his family, in a way that was not normally possible for previous generations of Gurkhas.

Under Her Majesty's Forces Immigration Rule, introduced in October 2004, Gurkhas have a pathway to settlement in the UK and citizenship, should they choose to follow it. A successful application for settlement in the UK requires a former Gurkha to have completed at least four years' service as a Gurkha with the British Army and to have been discharged after 1 July 1997. Once settled in the UK, Gurkhas can apply for British citizenship using their military service to count towards the qualifying period of five years.

Those who were discharged before the 1 July 1997 immigration qualifying date can still apply for Indefinite Leave to Enter or Remain in the UK under immigration discretionary arrangements, and can subsequently apply for citizenship.

Careful consideration has been given by the UK Border Agency to the circumstances in which it would be appropriate to exercise discretion where cases fall outside the provisions of the new immigration rules. This is done on a case by case basis.

The Tripartite Agreement also established a link between the British Brigade of Gurkhas and Indian Army terms and conditions of service (TACOS). Although until last year Gurkhas served under different TACOS from the rest of the British Army, it has been the policy of successive UK governments to ensure that Gurkha terms and conditions of service are fair and meet the aspirations of successive generations of Gurkha soldiers and their families. The 2007 review of Gurkha TACOS recommended that, with some exceptions to satisfy the Government of Nepal and to maintain the Brigade's operational effectiveness, Gurkhas should be offered British terms and conditions of Service, including pensions. As a result, serving Gurkhas and retired Gurkhas who served in the Army on or after 1 July 1997, had the option to access to benefits under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. All their service counted, though service before 1 July 1997 was given an actuarial value.

Those Gurkha veterans discharged prior to 1 July 1997 fell outside the scope of the TACOS review. It has been the policy of successive governments not to implement improvements to pensions and similar benefits retrospectively - a policy that has been applied across the public sector in the United Kingdom, not just to Gurkha veterans. To do so now would not only be counter to this policy but would also be at a cost running into many hundreds of millions of pounds to the country because of the potential claims of other groups in public sector schemes. Those veterans who retired before 1 July 1997 will continue to receive benefits under the Gurkha Pension Scheme. Most Gurkha veterans are in receipt of a Service Pension under the provisions of the Gurkha Pension Scheme, a Scheme that was designed for retirement in Nepal and offers different benefits to those serving under British terms and conditions of service. By providing immediate payment of pension after 15 years service from an early age of average 35, it was well suited to the conditions prevailing for earlier generations of Gurkhas.

The decision to apply the date of 1 July 1997 to the pension and immigration rule changes for Gurkhas is a rational one. Between 1971 and 1997 only one battalion of Gurkha infantry was stationed in the UK, at Church Crookham. During that time many Gurkha soldiers who served for 15 years before leaving the Brigade would spend only one full two-year unaccompanied tour in the UK during their career. Between the formation of the Brigade of Gurkhas in 1948 and the withdrawal from Singapore in the late 1960s, Gurkhas were stationed almost exclusively in the Far East and before 1948 Gurkhas served as part of the Indian Army. Because of this, most Gurkhas discharged before July 1997 would not have developed any strong residential ties with the UK. At the time the Tripartite Agreement was made, it was with the understanding that once they had completed their service they would return to Nepal.

The rate of pension under the Gurkha Pension Scheme provides a good income in Nepal, broadly equivalent to a very good salary. The value of the pension has been maintained over the years, for all pensioners; including the doubling of the pension in 2000 to take account of benefits in kind provided by the Government of India to its service pensioners. Last year, in addition to the annual inflationary uplift, pensioners who were of the rank of corporal or below received an increase to their pension of on average a further 19 per cent. They also received a further 5.7 per cent. increase for inflation this year.

Although some retired Gurkhas have challenged the pension arrangements in relation to the 2007 review, an independent Judicial Review in June 2008 ruled that the Ministry of Defence's position was fair and reasonable.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Sea Defences

The Petition of residents of North Norfolk and others.

Declares the Petitioners serious concern at the option contained in a paper from Natural England for an area of approximately 25 square miles to be inundated by the sea. The Petitioners consider that the news of this option being under consideration has caused a great deal of unnecessary distress.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to confirm he will take every step necessary to protect this area of North East Norfolk from the sea by defending the coastline.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Norman Lamb, Official Report,* 22 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 757 .]

[P000249]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, received 12 September 2008:

Coastal erosion and flooding has affected stretches of our coastline for generations. The Government remains committed to managing the impact of these natural process, and invests significant public funds in maintaining and constructing a range of physical barriers against

the sea. However, there will be those areas where the power of nature is such that we cannot maintain the current shape of our ever evolving coastline. As such, the Government is also looking at ways that people can be helped to adapt to increased risk, as well as work to understand potential impacts.

The Petition refers to a draft report prepared by Natural England which looks at the potential impacts of climate change on the natural environment of the Broads, and considers possible options. Natural England act as advisors on environmental matters and do not make flood or erosion risk management decisions. The draft paper contained a number of possible scenarios, and did not advocate any of these as the preferred approach. The Environment Agency has responsibility for maintaining the sea and tidal river defences which protect the Broads area from saltwater flooding. In 1993, the Environment Agency embarked on a 50 year works programme aimed at maintaining the existing sea defences by constructing a series of offshore reefs, rock groynes and beach recharge.

Government investment in flood and erosion risk management has increased, rising from £307 million in 1996-97 to some £800m by 2010-11. In the Norfolk Broads area, over the past 15 years, more than £40m has been invested in strengthening the coastal frontage from Eccles to Winterton, and the Environment Agency have recently awarded a £7.5m contract for further beach management works which will start later this year. Flood protection for inland low-lying land and properties is provided by 240kms of riverside earth embankments. The Environment Agency are implementing a 20-year programme of improvement works on these embankments through a £120m public/private partnership project, which commenced in 2001.

Managing a stretch of coastline is a very complex matter, with decisions to intervene in one particular area impacting on others downstream of it. Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) allow the Environment Agency to set out a strategic approach for a whole section of coastline, managing the interdependencies between the coastal processes. They also give a long-term view, considering coastal management over the next 100 years. The management policy for this length of coast is set out in the 2nd generation Kelling to Lowestoft Ness SMP, which was published for public consultation in December 2004. This Plan states that it is currently the Environment Agency's intention to 'Hold the Line' by maintaining the existing sea defences in the short and medium term (i.e. for 50 years).

DEFRA guidance for the preparation of SMPs recognises the inherent uncertainties with longer term predictions, and highlights the importance of reviews and updates at appropriate intervals to take account of up-to-date science and the latest policy guidance. In the case of the Kelling to Lowestoft Ness SMP, it currently predicts that it will become much more difficult to maintain the coastline in its current position between Eccles and Winterton as the impacts of climate change increase, and the 'Hold the Line' policy is unlikely to be sustainable for the 50 to 100 year period. Future reviews of the SMP will be able to incorporate any new information and provide an opportunity to review this position. If it is still considered unsustainable to hold the current line of defence, the reviews will establish where a sustainable line of defence may be established.

This area has a dynamic coastline, most of which has been progressively retreating over past centuries. There are many stretches of the coastline which will be defendable in the future, however there may be a few areas where for good reasons (such as considerable cost in relation to benefits, or that the actual defence structure is not technically feasible) that this is not possible. That is why DEFRA is looking at ways to help communities to adapt to increasing risks of flooding and erosion. For example, we recently launched a consultation on ways to increase the uptake of property-level resilience and resistance measures. This is a key way for individual property owners to receive better protection against flooding. We welcome the participation of the North Norfolk District Council in work looking at ways to adapt to erosion risk, and will continue to engage closely with them.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration (John and Stella Park)

The Petition of residents of Teesside and others,

Declares the Petitioners' serious concerns about the possible deportation of John and Stella Park (Home Office Reference Number K2218457) to the Republic of Korea with their mother.

The Petitioners' further declare that John and Stella (aged 14 and 16 years) are two brilliantly talented young musicians. They are in the process of completing their education at Yarm School.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for the Home Department to use her powers to prevent John and Stella's removal from the UK taking place, at least until they have been able to finish their school education.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Dari Taylor, Official Report,* 7 July 2008; Vol. 478, c. 1255 .]

[P000229]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, received 24 September 2008:

To maintain effective immigration control, the United Kingdom Border Agency must remove from the country foreign nationals whose leave to remain here has expired. Should they wish to stay in the United Kingdom to study, such persons ought to apply for entry clearance from abroad to enter the country properly under the Immigration Rules. To grant leave to remain to such people before they have applied for entry clearance provides them with an advantage over those who comply with the law.

Foreign nationals who have been refused leave to remain on the basis of their studies may appeal to an immigration judge. When considering an appeal, a judge has regard to the appellant's rights, and that of their dependents, to private life (including education) in the United Kingdom enshrined in Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998. In doing so, a judge will determine whether the interference, caused by the appellant's removal, with the appellant's private life is proportionate to the aim of achieving immigration control.

The child of a student would be expected to leave with the parent on completion of the parent's studies. Discretion can be given for a short period only, and leave granted outside the rules to enable a child to sit exams or complete the school year rather than be required to leave shortly before an important examination.

The United Kingdom Border Agency, and immigration judges, when deciding whether or not a person's rights under Article 8 will be breached by their removal, will have regard to the relevant circumstances to which he or she will be returned. Furthermore, their opportunity to apply for entry clearance to enter this country to resume their private life here is also considered.

To protect the privacy of the individuals, the Government is unable to comment on the details of the case.

Perry Family (Citizenship)

The Humble Petition of Marcus, Cain-Dean and Joshua Perry and others undersigned hereon,

Sheweth

That they are against any law that discriminates against long standing and successful marriages of over 20 years, where a British citizen is forced to be apart from their chosen spouse.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Government to reflect over the case of the Perry family and allow Karen Perry to enjoy legal status within the United Kingdom and enjoy family rights as should her sons and husband.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Frank Cook, Official Report,* 31 March 2008; Vol. 474, c. 599 .] [P000161]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, received 8 September 2008:

The Government does not discriminate against long standing successful marriages. They are subject to the same immigration requirements as all applications for marriage.

As has been made clear to the petitioner, the onus is on individuals to establish what the requirements of entry are before they travel to the United Kingdom.

For those seeking to settle in the UK as spouses, it is important that we have provisions to enable us to differentiate between a genuine marriage and a failed or sham relationship.

This Government has introduced a number of legislative and policy changes to tackle abuse of the Rules relating to marriage. The "no switching" provision is one such measure, introduced in April 2003 for anyone who had leave to enter for six months or less in category other than fiancé(e).

To protect the privacy of the individual, the Government is unable to comment on the individual case.

JUSTICE

Sentencing (Dangerous Driving)

The Petition of those concerned about the length of sentences given to people convicted of dangerous driving.

Declares that Amanda Coulton was killed by Daniel Storey. He was charged with causing death by dangerous driving with excess alcohol and under the influence of cocaine, driving with no licence and no insurance. The car he was driving did not belong to him. Mr Storey was sentenced to 8 years in prison after pleading guilty. The petitioners believe that he should have recieved the maximum sentence of 14 years for these crimes.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Home Secretary to reveiw the sentence given in the case of Daniel Storey, and to review sentencing policy in respect of dangerous driving.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Chris Ruane, Official Report,* 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 624 .] [P000254]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice, received 6 October 2008:

The Government strongly supports the need for stiff penalties for dangerous drivers and we have the following observations to make.

Review of sentence

The Attorney-General, with the leave of the Court of Appeal, has powers under sections 35 and 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, to refer to the Court sentences which appear to the Attorney-General to be unduly lenient. This must be done within 28 days of the sentence being imposed. The time limit is mandatory and cannot be extended. These powers are limited to sentences for indictable only offences and a limited number of triable 'either way offences' that have been specified by statutory order. Causing death by dangerous driving is indictable only and falls within the scheme. The Attorney-General did not make a reference in this case and the time limit expired on 7 July 2008.

Current sentencing policy for dangerous driving

The Government increased the penalty for causing death by dangerous driving from 10 to 14 years in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and we have no plans for a further review at this stage.

In July 2008, the Sentencing Guidelines Council issued guidelines on causing death by driving. The guideline followed the usual process of full public consultation. The guideline makes it clear that an offence will be considered more serious where there is evidence of driving impairment attributable to the consumption of alcohol or drugs, where the presence of alcohol or drugs does not form part of the offence.

There was an extensive review and consultation exercise of road traffic offences involving bad driving in 2005 following which two new offences were included in the Road Safety At 2006: causing death by careless driving which has a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment; and causing death by driving when unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured which has a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment. Prior to the introduction of these new offences the maximum sentence for careless, uninsured or unlicensed drivers who caused death on the roads was a fine. These offences complement the existing offences of causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs (maximum penalty of 14 years' imprisonment) and provide an effective framework for bad drivers.

TRANSPORT

Driving Test Centre (Spalding)

The Petition of the people of South Holland and the Deepings and others,

Declares that due to the closure of Spalding Driving test Centre the cost of learning to drive will increase for the residents of South Holland, as they will be forced to

travel to Peterborough. This will further increase the CO2 emissions and the carbon footprint as a result of the extra miles travelled.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to reverse the closure of Spalding Driving Test Centre.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Hayes, Official Report,* 22 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 25P .]
[P000259]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 9 September 2008:

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has a statutory responsibility for setting standards for theory and practical driving tests and assessing the standard of driving at the practical driving test.

DSA is a self-financing organisation, reliant upon test fee income for the provision of its services. This means the Agency needs to ensure it can deliver a cost-effective service to avoid unnecessary costs, which would have to be recovered from its customers via the driving test fee.

Consequently, when the opportunity arises the location, size and number of driving test centres (DTC) are closely scrutinised, taking into account:

the continued operational suitability of the location;
the facilities it offers;
the customer base;
the proximity of these and any other suitable alternative centres; and
the creation of the national network of Multi-Purpose Test Centres (MPTCs) linked to the introduction of new EU requirements for the motorcycling test in Autumn 2008.

The acquisition of the Peterborough MPTC presented the Agency with the opportunity to review its service provision in the Spalding area. DSA has a service standard that most practical test customers should not have to travel more than our travel distance criteria of 7, 20 or 30 miles depending on the population density of the area. The criterion appropriate to the Spalding area is 30 miles. Peterborough MPTC is about 20 miles from Spalding.

In addition to Peterborough, alternative local test centres are located at:

Boston DTC (approx 14 miles from Spalding);
Wisbech DTC (approx 19 miles);
Kings Lynn MPTC (approx 27 miles); and
Grantham DTC (approx 29 miles).

The closure of the Spalding DTC will maximise the utilisation of these facilities and will ensure there is no wasteful over-provision of facilities in the area. These centres will be suitably resourced so that waiting time targets for car and motorcycle tests will not be compromised.

It should not be necessary for learner drivers to travel from Spalding to test centre locations for every driving lesson unless it is for pre-test familiarisation. This should minimise any additional costs, the environmental impact of those journeys and reduce the time spent in traffic. Experience should be gained on a variety of roads as part of the lesson plan whilst candidates are accompanied by an experienced instructor, rather than as an unaccompanied novice driver.

In a further move to cut carbon emissions from driving, the practical driving test will feature advice on Eco-Safe Driving from September 2008. Eco-safe driving is a recognised and proven style of driving that contributes to road safety whilst reducing fuel consumption and emissions.

Electric and Hybrid Cars

The Petition of Andreas Sowa and Sam Lumley of Year 9 Castle View School, Canvey Island, residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that the use of gas guzzling petrol and diesel vehicles is helping to damage our environment, and that society should switch to electric and hybrid cars since these are less polluting, cause fewer accidents, with less serious consequences of those accidents because of the generally lower speeds of these cars, might encourage people to walk more, therefore reducing the amount of obesity and are more sustainable since oil is a depleting asset.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to adopt policies to promote the development, production and use of electric and hybrid cars in order to help to protect our environment and for connected matters, particularly given the importance of this issue to the wider community.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 14 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 110 .]
[P000236]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 9 September 2008:

The Government recognises the potential environmental benefits of moving to greater electrification of vehicles for both public and private transportation, particularly as our electricity generating system move to increasingly lower carbon power sources.

Currently, there are only very limited options available for those wishing to drive an electric vehicle. No major manufacturer offers electric vehicle options in the UK. For private motorists; there are a limited number of small city cars available on the market—not all of which meet modern crash safety standards. Wider market penetration of electric vehicles has been hindered by the high costs of batteries, the limited range and performance achieved by the vehicles and the need for a more widespread re-charging infrastructure.

Advances in battery technology have the potential to improve the performance of electric vehicles and much research is taking place in the UK and globally. Higher oil prices, if sustained over long periods, would also improve the relative economics of electric vehicles over conventional options—and thus also provide a commercial environment in which a more widespread re-charging infrastructure for electric vehicles could be developed.

The Government has a number of measures to help increase use of electric vehicles. These include advantageous treatment within the UK taxation system - they are exempt from annual vehicle excise duty and use of electricity is taxed at a significantly lower rate than petrol or diesel. In addition the Government is providing grants to support the rollout of recharging infrastructure.

In the light of recent technology advances and high oil prices, we have commissioned further work to examining the potential for electric vehicles to contribute to our long term carbon reduction and renewable energy targets as well as potential interactions with the UK power system.

This work will inform our wider policy development in this area, alongside assessment of the scope for other technological options—including more fuel efficient conventional engines and hydrogen powered fuel cells—to help us move to a more sustainable transport system over the coming decades.

Planning and Development (Heathrow)

The Petition of the Supporters of the Campaign to Save Cherry Lane Cemetery,

Declares that the proposal by the British Airports Authority to construct an access road to the proposed Third Runway and Sixth Terminal at Heathrow Airport through Cherry Lane Cemetery, which is the only functioning cemetery in this part of the London Borough of Hillingdon, is an act of outrageous, sacrilegious destruction, which is causing considerable distress to the families of loved ones buried at the cemetery and concern to the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon the Government to reject this proposal and safeguard this site.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by John McDonnell, Official Report,* 16 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 374 .] [P000235]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 9 September 2008:

The Government acknowledges the concerns over the protection of Cherry Lane Cemetery in Hillingdon, but believes they are unfounded. Plans published as part of our Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation and illustrating access roads to an expanded airport were clearly marked as 'indicative'. They do not purport to show the proposed third runway precinct or road layout in any detail, because at the moment any such plans are at an early stage. If policy approval is given by the Government for development at Heathrow and BAA proceed to submit a planning application, detailed final plans will need to be drawn up and be subject to further consultation in the context of a planning application. This would need to include detailed plans for road access, developed by BAA through a proper process of feasibility study and option selection.

I understand that BAA are very much aware of public concerns about Cherry Lane Cemetery and have made clear their commitment not to disturb graves or inhibit access to the cemetery.

Road Safety (Norfolk)

The Petition of residents of South West Norfolk,

Declares that the safety of children and other pedestrians outside schools is vital; that the numbers of road fatalities per year is far too high, that the roads outside schools are particularly sensitive areas; that reducing the speed limit on roads past schools would be an effective way of addressing this.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to consider reducing the national speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour outside schools

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Christopher Fraser, Official Report,* 17 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 502 .] [P000243]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 9 September 2008:

The Government supports and encourages the introduction of 20mph speed limits and zones on the roads around schools, but it may not always be practical to do so, for instance on roads with a strategic function.

Local traffic authorities are responsible for setting local speed limits and therefore have the power to introduce 20mph speed limits on any of their roads, if they believe it appropriate to do so. The Department's role is to provide local authorities with guidance to ensure those speed limits are appropriately and consistently set.

The Department fully supports local authorities that wish to introduce 20mph speed limits and 20mph zones on their roads, particularly in residential areas where vulnerable road users, such as children, are likely to be present. This is reflected in our guidance to local authorities on setting local speed limits issued in August 2006.

It must also be recognised that simply reducing a speed limit does not automatically achieve a similar reduction in vehicle speeds unless proven traffic calming measures are also introduced. This is backed by research which shows that simply reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph without additional traffic calming only reduces vehicle speeds by around 1mph.

Typically, a 20mph zone will cover a number of roads, often incorporating school premises and must contain proven traffic calming measures within its parameters to physically force drivers to reduce their speeds. Research has shown that accident frequency fell by around 60% and the number of accidents involving children reduced by 67% where 20mph zones were introduced.

For these reasons the Department firmly believes that a local authority's knowledge of the roads within their area means that they are better placed to decide which speed limits are appropriate for their roads as they will invariably understand local needs and conditions. I believe that this process will not only improve road safety but will also lead to increased respect for and compliance with speed limits.

We are collecting data on 20mph zones and will circulate to all Local Authorities in due course.

Traffic Noise (M3)

The Petition of the residents of Basing and others,

Declares that traffic on M3 has increased dramatically between junctions 5 and 7 over the past 10 years; that this has led to significant increases in noise levels for many local residents, excessive peak time motorway tail backs and consequently unacceptable levels of rat running in our villages and suburban areas.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to implement their plan to install noise reducing road surfaces on all 6 lanes of the motorway and to put in place improvements to junction 6 to ease traffic flow at peak times.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Maria Miller, Official Report,* 22 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 758 .] [P000257]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 9 September 2008:

Roads are resurfaced primarily to address maintenance need, not to reduce noise levels, although noise reduction is an additional benefit of maintenance work. The carriageway between junctions 6 and 7 is in serviceable condition and is not programmed for resurfacing in the near future. Approximately 15% of the carriageway of the M3 between junctions 5 and 6 has already been resurfaced with quieter surfacing. The plan, which is subject to the availability of funds in 2009/10, includes for at least a further 10% between junctions 5 and 6 to be resurfaced with quieter surfacing by April 2010.

The Highways Agency is working closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on the production of noise maps and action plans in line with the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006. The maps for England's roads were published on 16 May 2008 and the Agency is currently working with DEFRA and local authorities to develop a traffic noise action plan. Using these plans, the Agency will review the priorities and measures to provide noise mitigation solutions within the funds available.

Despite the traffic signals at junction 6 being managed to maximise traffic flows there can be tailbacks on the off slips of the M3 at Junction 6 during the morning peak period. A scheme is currently being developed to address the hazard of queuing on the main carriageway which will involve the off-slips at junction 6 being extended through the use of the hard shoulder. There is also a study programmed for 2009/10 to model the wider road network around junction 6 to assess the impact of the Growth Point status of Basingstoke to identify further options for improvement.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Post Office Closures (Cheshire)

The Petition of Mrs Shelagh Beswick, Manager, Wincham Post Office, Mr Alastair Carmichael, Sub Post Master, Barnton Post Office, and others of like disposition,

Declares that they and others care deeply about their local Post Office, where they wish to be able to continue to use their Post Office Card Account, as they are unable to easily visit the bank in their nearest town.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to ensure that POCA2 remains a Post Office product.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. George Osborne, Official Report,* 17 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 15P .] [P000248]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, received 6 August 2008:

The current Post Office card account contract ends in March 2010, as always planned, and the Government has decided that there will be a new service after 2010. We received clear legal advice that we were required to tender competitively for this product, in order to ensure that best value for money for the taxpayer is achieved.

That process is now well under way and an announcement on the successful bidder will be made in accordance with appropriate procurement rules once a decision has been reached.

The successor to the Post Office card account will be accessible at personal teller outlets throughout the UK, with widespread coverage to ensure that it will be available in rural areas as well as urban communities.

The Government still believes that being paid into a bank or building society account is the best option for the vast majority of our customers, and around three in four of our customers are paid this way. It gives them more choice about where and when they get their money, enables them to make savings on some bills by paying by direct debit and get interest on balances on their accounts.

However, the Government remains committed to allowing people to access their pension and benefit in cash at the post office if they choose to do so, and there are around 25 accounts which make that possible thereby generating income for Post Office Ltd and sub-postmasters.

Post Offices play an important social and economic role in the communities they serve and we are determined to maintain a national Post Office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country. This is why we invested £2 billion between 1999 and 2006 to support the network and are providing a further £1.7 billion up to 2011 to maintain a national network and put it on a stable footing. Funding includes a continued annual subsidy of up to £150 million until at least 2011 with an expectation of a continued need for subsidy beyond this.

Petitions

Monday 13 October 2008

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Parking (Halifax)

The Petition of supporters of increased parking facilities for shoppers in Halifax town centre,

Declares that more parking facilities are needed for shoppers in Halifax town centre

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to call on Calderdale Council to ensure that provision is made for extra parking in Halifax town centre for shoppers and to guarantee that, should the car park on Broad street be developed on, a parking and shuttle bus service be provided for the Eureka site.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Linda Riordan, Official Report*, 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 621.] [P000247]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and LocalGovernment:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners in relation to parking facilities in Halifax.

It is understood that a reserved matters planning application for a mixed use development including retail, residential, leisure and a multi storey car park (478 spaces with 46 being allocated as residential) at Broad Street, Halifax was approved in July 2008.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 13 'Transport' sets out the Government's planning policy for promoting more sustainable transport choices, including parking standards. Planning Policy statements and guidance are expected to be fully reflected in the policies contained in both regional strategies and local development plans and documents and are important material considerations when planning applications are being determined. Local planning authorities are required to have regard to Government guidance in determining applications and the Secretary of State would expect her guidance to carry considerable weight as important statements of Government policy. However, Parliament has made local planning authorities responsible for what is in their view proper planning for their area and they are entitled, in appropriate circumstances, to take the view that other material considerations are of greater weight in particular cases. It is our policy to allow authorities to exercise this responsibility with the minimum of intervention from central Government, and to intervene only when issues of more than local significance are raised.

These are not matters in which the Secretary of State would become involved. However, there is still some potential that the Broad Street planning application could be subject to an appeal by the applicant to the Secretary of State, for instance against the imposition of a particular condition. It would not therefore be appropriate for the Secretary of State to offer any comments or observations on the propositions raised by this petition.

Planning (Hampshire)

The Humble Petition of Botley and Hedge End residents,

Sheweth that they object to the proposed Strategic Development Area to the N/NE of Hedge End and the inadequacy of the consultation and selection process.

They represent the views of 312 residents who signed a similar petition during a public meeting on 12 June 2008 at Botley Church, and reflect the widespread views of local residents.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House shall urge the Department of Communities and Local Government to withdraw the proposed Strategic Development Area in order to embark on proper consultation and a full consideration of the alternatives.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Chris Huhne*, Official Report, 1 July 2008; Vol. 478, c. 836.] [P000221]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the inclusion of a Strategic Development Area north of Hedge End.

The proposals were included in Proposed Changes to draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (The South East Plan) which was published for consultation on 17 July 2008. The consultation period runs until 24 October 2008.

I would urge all interested parties to raise their objections through the formal process to enable representations to be considered.

Details of how to respond to the consultation can be found on the Government Office for the South East website: www.gos.gov.uk/gose/planning/regionalPlanning

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of Brian Keeler, Mr and Mrs Patel, the residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that they object to the proposed demolition of the two shops at 1 to 5 High Street Benfleet, to make way for a commercial development with seven 2 bed flats in an unsympathetic and unattractive 2 and 3 storey development above shops, with only seven parking spaces, putting unacceptable pressure on alternative local public parking facilities which are increasingly inadequate, that this development would further spoil the Conservation Area and create unacceptable stress on the existing infrastructure, including roads, schools, rail, doctors, dentists, etc. Further declares that they urge Councillors to reject this development for these and for many other valid planning reasons, and to ensure that this application is decided by Councillors rather than officers, given the importance to the wider community, of protecting their unique Conservation Area.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press Castle Point Borough Council, the three Boyce Ward Councillors and all mainland Councillors in particular, to reject this planning application and to substantially protect the unique St Mary's Conservation Area.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report*, 23 June 2008; Vol. 478, c. 119.]

[P000218]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

Parliament has entrusted local authorities with responsibility for development control in their areas. It is for them to decide, with particular regard to the provisions of the County Structure and Local Plans, any relevant views expressed by neighbouring occupiers, local residents and other third parties (although they are not bound to accept those views) and any other relevant material considerations which fairly and reasonably relate to the application concerned, whether or not a proposal should be given planning permission. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government intervenes in this responsibility only in the most exceptional circumstances and then only when issues of national or regional importance are involved. To do so more often would undermine the responsibility given to local planning authorities.

The Petition of Brian Keeler, Mr and Mrs Patel, the residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that they object to the proposed development of the area between No's 3 to 7 The Close, Benfleet, to construct a building providing two 2 bed flats in a 2 storey development, which being on a pedestrian pathway only, has no parking spaces, no refuse collection facilities, no access for the development, in either removing spoil or, delivering materials for the building, as these would have to be craned into the site, either from the High Street, over existing properties, or by once again utilising the local School Lane Car Park for builders vehicles and mobile crane, once again putting unacceptable pressure on alternative local public parking facilities which are increasingly inadequate, that this development would further spoil the Conservation Area and create unacceptable stress on the existing infrastructure, including roads, schools, rail, doctors, dentists etc.

Further declares that they urge Councillors to reject this development for these and for many other valid planning reasons, and to ensure that this application is decided by Councillors rather than unelected unaccountable officers, given the importance to the wider community of protecting their unique Conservation Area.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press Castle Point Borough Council, the three Boyce ward Councillors and all mainland Councillors in particular, to reject this planning application and to substantially protect the unique St Mary's Conservation Area.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 14 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 111.]

[P000237]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The application to Castle Point Borough Council was in respect of the construction of a 2-storey development providing two 2-bed flats on land between 3 to 7 The Close, Benfleet. The application was withdrawn on 4 August 2008.

HEALTH

Hospital Closures (Cornwall)

The Petition of the People of West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Declares that our support for the cross-party (and non-party political) campaign to:

Oppose any plans to reduce or close hospital services at St Michael's or Penzance; Express our dismay that NHS money is being used to build up and support private hospitals while the Trust is contemplating the closure of the excellent St Michael's Hospital; Object to the waste of money on administrative gimmicks rather than frontline public services; Demand an Independent Review of hospital services and for fair funding; Support an increase in emergency as well as acute and diagnostic services in the West of Cornwall.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to ensure the maintenance of hospital services at St Michael's or Penzance, two of west Cornwall's most crucial public services.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew George, Official Report,* 22 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 23P.]

[P000250]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

It is for the local National Health Service to decide how best to allocate funding and to commission health services for their local communities. Therefore, my Department will bring this to the attention of Cornwall & The Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust (PCT).

South West Strategic Health Authority has advised that there are currently no plans to close St Michael's Hospital or West Cornwall Hospital. Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly PCT confirmed its commitment to a future for both hospitals in its "A Healthy Future" publication.

Queen Elizabeth Resource Centre (Dartford)

The Petition of the Bridge Court Action Group at the Queen Elizabeth Foundation Resource Centre in Dartford

Declares that the Queen Elizabeth Resource Centre in Dartford gives disabled people a chance to develop their skills for IT, Health and Fitness, Sports, Sign Language plus other skills, to aid disabled people get back to independent living.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Secretary of State for Health to support the Bridge Court Action Group in its efforts to keep the resource centre open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Howard Stoate, Official Report,* 22 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 24P.] [P000260]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issue raised in the petition is a matter for Kent County Council who, I understand, owns the building which the Resource Centre back from them. I am advised by the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority that West Kent PCT does not commission any services from the Queen Elizabeth Resource Centre.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 6 October 2008

OLYMPICS

Public Expenditure

4. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the public expenditure on the London 2012 Olympics. [224393]

Tessa Jowell: The estimate of public expenditure on the London 2012 Games remains within the £9.325 billion package that I announced in March 2007.

I provided further details of the budget in my statement of December 2007; and my progress updates of January and July 2008.

Environment

5. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had on the environmental effects of the London 2012 Olympics. [224394]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Board has set out its ambition to make the London 2012 Games the most sustainable in modern times.

Our Sustainability Plan, 'Towards a One Planet 2012' details how we intend to achieve this—for example, by cutting carbon emissions in the Olympic Park by 50 per cent. by 2013, by ensuring that 20 per cent. of energy on-site comes from local, renewable energy, and by creating a park that will encourage people to live more healthily and sustainably.

The Board discusses and monitors progress against these commitments and the many others which are contained in the plan.

The first annual update of the plan is due to be published later this year. Progress includes: the ODA exceeding its target to reclaim 90 per cent. of demolition waste for reuse or recycling, new wildlife refuges being created from the timber of demolished buildings, and construction of the new facilities in Weymouth minimising disruption to local wildlife.

Olympic Complex

6. **David Taylor:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent progress has been made in the design and construction of the 2012 Olympic complex in east London. [224395]

Tessa Jowell: Excellent progress continues to be made on both the design and construction of the Olympic Park in East London.

In particular, construction work on the two principle sporting venues—the Olympic Stadium and Aquatics Centre—is well advanced for this stage of the programme, with both remaining ahead of schedule.

Beijing Olympics: Lessons

7. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what lessons learned from the Beijing Olympics will be incorporated into preparations for the London Olympics in 2012. [224396]

8. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the main lessons learned from the Beijing Olympics are for the London 2012 Olympics. [224397]

Tessa Jowell: Beijing 2008 was a truly fantastic Games which gave the key stakeholders involved in the preparation of London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games the chance to learn valuable lessons to help us stage the best Games possible in London.

Some of the key lessons learned from Beijing include: placing athletes at the heart of the Games; providing a complete spectator experience; the vital role that volunteers play at the Games; an effective ticketing strategy to ensure that the majority of venues are full; and commencing detailed planning now with all key stakeholders for the Paralympic Games.

All stakeholder organisations are pulling together their lessons learned, and the process has been discussed by the Olympic Board. We will be sharing experiences between partners, and the culmination of this process will be a briefing session in London at the end of November by the Beijing Organising Committee (BOCOG) for the UK, and other host and bidding cities, when we will have a greater understanding of the issues involved.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what measures are in place in her Office to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219592]

Tessa Jowell: The Minister for the Olympics' Office is part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1433W.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by her Office was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220742]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1257W.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her Office's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220427]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how long on average her Office took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions since its inception. [215474]

Tessa Jowell: Information on the average number of days taken to answer parliamentary questions is not readily available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Olympic Games 2012

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with London boroughs on the route of the 2012 Olympic torch relay. [210280]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) are responsible for planning a torch relay but have recently been focused on the Beijing Games and the last chance to witness a Summer Games before it is London's turn. LOCOG will begin planning for the 2012 Torch Relay in 2010, and as part of this planning will work with a range of partners including central and local government across London and the UK.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much CLM has been paid since its appointment as an Olympic contractor; and how much it is expected to be paid over the duration of the contract. [219260]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has reported in its accounts for 2007-08 a payment to CLM of £106 million, including VAT, for the period up to 31 March 2008. The final total payment to CLM will depend on the organisation's performance in achieving incentive targets. CLM resources are agreed on a period by period basis and the ODA is currently negotiating the resources for the period 28 July to 31 December 2009. An update on the payments made to CLM will be given each year in the ODA's Annual Report and Accounts.

Olympic Games 2012: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what standard of accessible facilities the London Olympic village will have for *(a)* spectators and *(b)* participants with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and whether those facilities will include (i) hoists, (ii) benches and (iii) sufficient space for a wheelchair and two carers. [219324]

Tessa Jowell: The London 2012 Games will be the first to fully integrate the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games making no distinction between them in the approach to planning, delivery and standard of service to both participants and spectators.

As part of inclusive and accessible design, the Olympic Village will comply with all relevant legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and its supporting code of practice; and exceed the requirements of the UK's Building Regulations (Part M—Access and facilities for disabled people). Design will incorporate wheelchair space requirements and facilities and aids to ensure accommodation is flexible and appropriate to the comfort and varying requirements of Paralympic athletes.

The ODA's Access and Inclusion Forum has representation from a lead disability organisation within each of the five boroughs, as well as the borough Access Officers and key external stakeholders. It meets on a quarterly basis and advises on areas of inclusive design through the sharing of knowledge and experience.

In addition to the forum, ODA Access Panels provide specialist disability and inclusive design experts to review and advise on design—both at Games time and in legacy—and have final sign-off on ODA build commitments. In support of this, the ODA has appointed two Principal Access Officers—one specialising in the built environment and one specialising in transport accessibility—responsible for the development of inclusive design within the ODA's programme.

Olympic Games 2012: St. Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps the Government plan to take to encourage children and young people in St. Albans to participate in events that are part of the London 2012 Olympics. [222029]

Tessa Jowell: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) are working hard to ensure that the benefits of 2012 reach across the UK and have established a Nations and Regions Group (NRG) to oversee this work.

The East of England representative is Cllr Stephen Castle, who chairs the Nations and Regions East (NRE) Board. In Hertfordshire, the Ready for Winners Partnership Board (HRFWP), led by Hertfordshire county council has been set up to maximise the benefits from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As part of their legacy ambitions, they have particularly committed to encouraging children and young people to participate in 2012 related events.

Schools in Hertfordshire have already started using material from LOCOG's UK-wide London 2012 education programme, 'Get Set', which launches on Thursday 18 September and have registered to be part of LOCOG's Paralympic Handover celebrations on Wednesday 17 September. Additionally, the "Sports in the Park" programme in St. Albans will form part of the region's plans for cultural events taking place over the Handover weekend in August. This will offer up to 2,000 children aged two to 12 the opportunity to be active and have fun over a period of six weeks this summer. Across the St. Albans district, children will design a handover flag that represents their community and what the Games means to them to take to the official 2012 flag raising ceremony on 24 August. Young people from St. Albans and the county will also have the opportunity to be amongst the 70,000 volunteers needed to help run the Games in London.

Local sports facilities for all age groups are also being improved across the county as part of the "Active Hertfordshire strategy", with new facilities being built in Watford and St Albans. HRFWP is also developing a talented young athlete scheme and has so far channelled £12,000 to support 23 young athletes up to 2012 identified by their governing bodies as having sporting talent and high potential. Each athlete will receive nutritional advice, physiotherapy assessments, individual and group training sessions, performance lifestyle advice and free membership to Hertfordshire Sports village and some other facilities in the county.

WALES

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether those staff of his Department who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to *(a)* travel in a cheaper class to the destination and *(b)* benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [222160]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Staff within my Department are always encouraged to travel economy but are not entitled to benefit from any savings made.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on how many occasions his Department has instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220828]

Mr. Paul Murphy: We have identified one case since the establishment of the Wales Office in 1999 in which the Department, jointly with the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, sought leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Leave was granted and the appeal was successful.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government Departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul flights. [222155]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has offset air miles in the last two financial years through Pure, The Pure Carbon Trust. In 2006-07 we offset 8,888 miles. This was made up of:

2,002 miles domestic

0 miles short-haul

6,886 miles long-haul

In 2007-08 we offset 6,173 miles made up of:

4,556 miles domestic

1,617 miles short-haul

0 miles long-haul

We will be offsetting through the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in the future.

Departmental Data Protection

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what types of data have been sold by his Department under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222161]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223045]

Mr. Paul Murphy: There have been no disciplinary breaches at the Wales Office in the last 12 months.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the location is of each office occupied by his Department which has been *(a)* newly occupied and *(b)* refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [221928]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department is located in both London and Cardiff; their floor area in square metres is:

London: 640.96

Cardiff: 531.47.

Neither location is newly occupied; my London office received minor refurbishment in August 2007.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222159]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will place in the Library the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222157]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office purchasing is done through the Ministry of Justice financial processes and cannot be desegregated from its figures.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222158]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No such expenditure has been incurred.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what contracts his Department has with EDF; and how much his Department paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221849]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222274]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Fires: Safety

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consideration has been given to the *(a)* regionalisation and *(b)* rationalisation of fire control rooms in Wales. [224484]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Welsh Assembly Government was given an opportunity in 2004 to join FiReControl, the project to rationalise the 46 control rooms in England to nine regional control centres. The proposal was to reduce Wales' three control rooms to one regional control centre.

Welsh Assembly Government Ministers took a decision not to opt into the FiReControl project as a rationalisation of the eight Fire Authorities and their control rooms in Wales had already taken place in 1996.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether any full-time equivalent members of his Department's staff are working on policy relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [221877]

Mr. Paul Murphy: As part of their duties a number of my officials (together with colleagues from Welsh Assembly Government) have and continue to work toward maximising Wales' contribution to a successful London 2012.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222184]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work. A stress management framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards, is available to all employees and gives easy to use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223042]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In the last financial year my Department has spent £3,424.16 on taxis.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office

James Duddridge: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission whether National Audit Office staff who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to *(a)* travel in a cheaper class to the destination and *(b)* benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [221922]

Mr. Alan Williams: The National Audit Office informs me that National Audit Office staff are not entitled to first class air travel, and the normal class of air travel is economy. Business class or premium economy air travel may be permitted in some circumstances, taking into account the duration and timing of travel. All staff must seek prior authorisation for their travel plans from a director or manager.

NAO staff are required to book all air tickets and rail tickets in excess of £20 through contracted travel providers. The companies invoice the National Audit Office for the tickets booked. So staff cannot claim for any fare or travel in a cheaper class than the booked ticket, nor benefit in monetary terms from any difference in cost.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission what the budget of the National Audit Office is for 2008-09; and what savings it expects to make within that budget. [222456]

Mr. Alan Williams: The NAO's budget for 2008-09, approved by the Public Accounts Commission on 4 March 2008, is a net amount of £107.7 million: £74.8 million for audit and assurance services, £24.2 million for the repair and refurbishment of the NAO's headquarters building, and the remaining £8.7 million for the provision of temporary office accommodation for London staff for the duration of the refurbishment work.

The NAO also has a capital budget in 2008-09 of £15.7 million: £1.5 million for its ongoing audit and assurance work, and the remaining £14.2 million for the refurbishment project.

Within its budget, the NAO is committed to efficiency savings of 3 per cent. across its corporate services, 2 per cent. in its value for money work and 1 per cent. on financial audit work.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Department of Facilities: Fats

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chairman of the Administration Committee how much hydrogenated fat the Department of Facilities and its predecessor bought for cooking use in the last year for which figures are available. [224489]

Nick Harvey: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Chairman of the Administration Committee.

The House of Commons catering service does not purchase hydrogenated fat or hydrogenated vegetable oils for cooking use. Furthermore, as part of its commitment to promoting healthy eating in the workplace, the catering service is working towards removing hydrogenated fats wherever possible from its supply chain.

A review of the dry and ambient ingredients purchased by the catering and retail service is approximately 70 per cent. complete and to date has identified only nine products containing hydrogenated fats or oils. The review should be complete by the end of the year, after which a review of other processed foods purchased by the department will be carried out.

Work is in hand to identify suitable alternatives for those products found to contain hydrogenated fats or oils.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church of England: Land

Jon Trickett: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what mechanisms are in place to ensure that disposal of glebeland *(a)* complies with legal requirements and *(b)* respects the terms of covenants. [223723]

Sir Stuart Bell: Under the provisions of the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976, a Diocesan Board of Finance has to manage its glebe property for the benefit of the Diocesan Stipends Fund of the diocese. The legal requirements before a sale is proposed are set out in the Measure and in advice published by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners' consent to a sale is needed where the proposed transaction does not meet standard charitable criteria or where there are objections to the proposal. The policing of covenants after a sale is a matter for the Diocesan Board of Finance.

Jon Trickett: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what procedures exist for members of the public to object to a sale of glebeland. [223724]

Sir Stuart Bell: Notice of the proposed sale of qualifying glebe needs to be served on the parish priest and the Parochial Church Council. If there are objections, these are considered by the Church Commissioners' Pastoral Committee. Objectors to and proponents of the proposed transaction may attend the Committee's meetings and make oral presentations of their cases. The Commissioners' decision on such cases is final.

Economic and Monetary Union

James Duddridge: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners whether the Church Commissioners have produced a euro changeover plan. [222344]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Church Commissioners have not produced a euro changeover plan and currently have no plans to do so.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether those staff of his Department who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to *(a)* travel in a cheaper class to the destination and *(b)* benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [222164]

Ann McKechin: All official travel is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul flights. [222149]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office is part of the Ministry of Justice for these purposes. Data concerning air miles and carbon emissions in each of the three categories will be submitted to the Ministry of Justice for inclusion in its 2008-09 annual return.

Departmental Data Protection

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what types of data have been sold by his Department under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222165]

Ann McKechin: Core information produced by the Scotland Office can be reused free of charge under the terms of the PSI Click-Use Licence which is administered by the Office of Public Sector Information in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223049]

Ann McKechin: There have been no disciplinary breaches by staff in the Scotland Office in the last 12 months.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the location is of each office occupied by his Department which has been *(a)* newly occupied and *(b)* refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222152]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not newly occupied any refurbished properties in the last 24 months.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222163]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not provide permanent residential accommodation for its staff.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222151]

Ann McKechin: A list of the suppliers to the Scotland Office in 2007-08 has been placed in the House Library.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222162]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has incurred no expenditure on external public relations in the last 36 months.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what contracts his Department has with EDF; and how much his Department paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221848]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999; since that date, the Office has had no contracts with EDF.

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222273]

Ann McKechin: This Government are firmly committed to the importance of the EU in delivering on 21st century challenges. The EU is of central importance to the work of HM Government across all Departments. It is relevant to a wide range of policy areas, and to the work of many Government officials. No Scotland Office officials are either wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many full-time equivalent members of his Department's staff are working on policy relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [221875]

Ann McKechin: There are no members of staff in the Scotland Office working on policy related to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games. However, in line with the office's key role of representing Scotland's interests in Westminster, and as the Games will benefit the whole of the UK, one member of staff has this issue within her portfolio and will advise colleagues, answer correspondence and brief as required.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222185]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office is committed to the well-being of its staff. It has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work. A stress management framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards, is available to all staff and gives easy to use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223041]

Ann McKechin: In 2007-08, the Scotland Office spent £10,885 on taxis.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Palace of Westminster: Furniture

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will take steps to stop the placing of tables and chairs on the staircase between the lower waiting hall and the Committee corridor; and if he will make an assessment of any *(a)* damage to the pavement by the Barry Statue and *(b)* health and safety implications of any emergency evacuations required in the area. [222374]

Nick Harvey: It has been the practice for many years to use the landing adjacent to the lower waiting hall to store furniture from the Members' and Strangers' dining rooms when they are both in use at the same time for functions sponsored by Members. These can take place between 4-6 pm each weekday, on Thursday evenings, and at times when the House is not sitting. The furniture has to be kept close to the dining rooms because there are only 30 minutes available to reset them for the evening service to Members.

A study during the recess has concluded that the issue could be overcome either by accepting bookings for functions in only one of the dining rooms at any one time or by taking out of use temporarily one of the adjacent rooms used by Members. The possibilities and their implications will be reported to the Administration Committee this month.

The conservation architect has advised that there has been some minor damage to the stonework on the landing.

The fire safety manager has advised that storing furniture on the landing does present a risk to effective building evacuation; how great that is would depend on the number of people in the Palace at the time, particularly in the Committee Rooms. He advised that it would be good practice to discontinue using the landing for storage. Until the Administration Committee has had an opportunity to consider the matter, arrangements are being made to advise the fire safety manager when both rooms are being used for functions.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many consultants were hired by the offices now comprising the Government's Equalities Office in 2006-07, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* gender, *(c)* sexual orientation, *(d)* race, *(e)* disability and *(f)* religion or belief. [219632]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 July 2008]:* The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Since that date it has taken over responsibility for equality issues from a number of different teams and Departments, including: the Disability Rights Commission Sponsorship team, based in 2006-07 in the Department for Work and Pensions; the Commission for Racial Equality Sponsorship Team, based in the Home Office in the first part of 2006-07, then transferred to Communities and Local Government; the Women and Equality Unit, based in the Department of Trade and Industry until May 2006, then in Communities and Local Government; and lawyers from DTI and HO, who transferred to CLG in May 2006. Because of the wide disposal of records in a number of different Departments and locations, the cost of answering this question would be disproportionate.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in the Government Equalities Office were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223044]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. There have been no serious disciplinary breaches since then.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 438W, how many Government Equalities Office staff have worked from home since the establishment of the Office. [222471]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007 and all of its current 92 staff can work from home subject to line management approval, operational need and the availability of its 16 laptops. GEO acquired 16 laptops in early June 2008. In total 32 staff have security keys which allow them to use these laptops.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the Government Equalities Office's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220420]

Barbara Follett: Since the Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007 it has been based in Communities and Local Government buildings and used accounting systems and policies provided by that Department. CLG's primary policy in procurement is to achieve value for money and it uses a range of measures to achieve this, including attaining discounts from suppliers in return for prompter payment of invoices.

Departmental Property

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from the Government Equalities Office since its inception; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221595]

Barbara Follett: Since its establishment on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has rented accommodation in premises owned by the Department for Communities and Local Government and consequently does not enter into any of the arrangements mentioned in the question.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework since its establishment. [222347]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. The following table shows its spending on external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information public relations framework since 12 October 2007.

Public relations and marketing companies		£
SHAHRP	Media relations support for launch of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Women's Taskforce.	3,800
Trimedia	Media relations support for GEO Press Office in the run up to Equality Bill announcements.	20,000
Cohn and Wolfe	Campaign to raise awareness of the rights of parents and carers to request flexible working, and to provide employers with guidance on dealing with such requests.	61,085

Departmental Publications

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of any materials the Government Equalities Office has distributed to schools since its inception. [222552]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Since then it has not distributed any materials to schools.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what percentage of staff in the Government Equalities Office have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days since its inception. [218698]

Barbara Follett: According to the available data, six staff in the Government Equalities Office have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days since its inception. Staffing levels have varied over this period, but this would represent 7.7 per cent. of GEO's current staff.

Disabled: Candidates

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government has taken to encourage more disabled people to *(a)* apply for and *(b)* present themselves as candidates for election for public office. [215843]

Barbara Follett: The Government aim to have fair representation of disabled people at every level of our democracy.

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995, as amended and strengthened by this Government, protects disabled people from disability discrimination and ensures that reasonable adjustments will be made to enable them to become public office holders and members of locally-elected bodies.

The Government also recently announced plans to improve the diversity of public appointments, including new targets to increase the proportion of disabled people serving on the boards of public bodies.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what contracts the Government's Equalities Office has with EDF; and how much the Office paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221852]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. It has not entered into any contracts with EDF.

Equal Opportunities: Legislation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to publish an Equality Bill; and if she will make a statement. [223164]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* As my right hon. and learned Friend the Minister for Women and Equality announced in Parliament on 25 June 2008, the Government remain committed to introducing an Equality Bill during this Parliament.

The content of the Bill has been subject to collective consideration by Ministers in the normal way and the Government's response to the consultation, which was published on 21 July, made the intended content of the Bill clear.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the standards of treatment of victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation after they have been rescued. [222457]

Barbara Follett: The Poppy Project, which provides refuge and comprehensive support for women trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation, was initially piloted and then formally evaluated in 2005. The grant for Eaves Housing for Women was extended following a successful procurement exercise to commission a service that offered a high standard and ensured value for money.

The Government's progress on tackling human trafficking, including victim care is subject to regular review by the Inter-departmental Ministerial Group. On 2 July we published the Update to the UK Action Plan that highlights progress against the actions in the original plan (published in March 2007) and identifies new measures.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what proportion of the £1 million emergency fund for rape crisis centres, announced in March, has been distributed; which organisations have received such funding; how much each organisation has received; and what plans the Government has to maintain the funding for the year starting April 2009. [224210]

Barbara Follett: I will let the right hon. Member have such information as is available as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Barbara Follett to Theresa May:

Eight rape crisis centres identified at imminent risk of closure have received payments totalling £175,364 (17.5 per cent.) from the £1 million emergency fund announced in March. Beneficiaries of the fund to date, and the payments they have received, are shown in the following table:

Rape crisis centre	*Amount awarded (£)*
Eva	42,500
Merseyside Rape and Sexual Abuse	23,244.07
Peterborough	11,867.99
West Cumbria	37,204
Wycombe	46,048
Cambridge	5,000
Chester	5,000
Watford	5,000
Total	175,864.06

Further awards will be made in October. This one-off fund was established as an emergency measure to enable rape crisis centres to address the sustainability issues they face. It is in addition to £1.4 million of support for victims of sexual crimes, the majority of which comes from the Ministry of Justice's Victims Fund. Spending plans for 2009-10 are being finalised.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on taxis since its creation. [223039]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 of October 2007. Since then and up to the end of July 2008 it has spent £1,792.69 on taxis.

Women: Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the Government's policy on violence against women. [223003]

Barbara Follett: I have regular discussions with the Minister for Women and Equalities as well as other ministerial colleagues about the Government's policies on violence against women.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Sport: Children

9. **Ms Keeble** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proposals he has to increase the participation of children in sport in the run up to the London 2012 Olympics. [224380]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We will capitalise on the London 2012 Olympics to inspire young people to play sport throughout their lives.

Over the next three years, we will spend at least £780 million on developing sporting opportunities for young people through our PE and Sport Strategy for Young People. This will mean more coaches, competition, and young people playing sport in a wide range of community as well as school settings.

Grassroots Sport

10. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to support grassroots sport; and if he will make a statement. [224381]

Andy Burnham: In June this year Sport England published their new strategy for sport. The new strategy for 2008-11 focuses on three key areas of grassroots sport: growing sporting participation, sustaining sporting participation, and ensuring that talented people from all backgrounds have the chance to excel. I am confident that this new framework will enable us to deliver a world leading community sports system for the country.

15. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated to support grassroots sport in 2008-09. [224386]

Andy Burnham: My Department has allocated £133.163 million of Exchequer funding to Sport England in 2008-09. In addition, they will receive a projected £125 million of lottery money.

Sport England's new strategy, published in June, focuses on three key areas of grassroots sport: growing sporting participation, sustaining sporting participation and ensuring talented people from all backgrounds have the chance to excel. I am confident that this new strategy will deliver a world leading community sports system.

Digital Switchover: Scotland

11. **Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will review the number of channels available to people served by relay transmitters in the south of Scotland after digital switchover takes place in November 2008. [224382]

Andy Burnham: After switchover all terrestrial viewers in Scotland will be able to receive around 20 channels via the public service multiplexes. An estimated 88 per cent. of homes in Scotland will also be able to receive a further range of commercial channels. However, coverage of these services is a commercial matter for the operators concerned.

ITV: Network Programming Quota

12. **Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on ITV's compliance with its quota on network programming originating outside the M25. [224383]

Andy Burnham: Ofcom's chief executive officer briefed me on ITV's breach of its out-of London quota at a meeting in June. The matter is the subject of consideration by Ofcom with a view to regulatory action.

Football Clubs

13. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the regulation of governance and ownership of football clubs. [224384]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Brigg and Goole (Mr. Cawsey).

Digital Media Sector

14. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on developing skills in the digital media sector; and if he will make a statement. [224385]

Andy Burnham: The Minister with responsibility for Culture, my right hon. Friend the member for Barking (Margaret Hodge), and I have had a number of conversations with colleagues across Government regarding the development of skills in the creative industries including the digital media sector. In particular, we have met the Secretary of State for Universities, Innovation and Skills and the Minister with responsibility for Skills, my hon. friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr. Lammy), to look at how we can meet our aim for employers to create 5,000 new apprenticeship places in the creative industries by 2013.

My Department is also working with employers, sector skills councils, trade associations, the Learning and Skills Council and other Government Departments to establish high quality innovative new places of learning, such as the planned National Skills Academy for the creative sectors in Thurrock.

Free Swimming

17. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received from local authorities on the budgetary implications of implementing free swimming schemes for the under-16s. [224388]

Andy Burnham: Approximately 40.

British Residents: Holidays

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has taken steps to encourage British residents to take their main annual holidays in the UK. [224376]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain's 'England Marketing Department' spend over £14 million a year in Britain on promoting England as a destination for the British.

ABL Consulting

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has a contract with ABL Consulting. [221905]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not have a contract with ABL consulting.

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what options are available to licensing authorities regarding applications for Temporary Event Notices where the premises concerned has previously been found to have breached licensing conditions. [222997]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In cases where the police object to a temporary event notice, licensing authorities are responsible for holding a hearing to decide whether to issue a counter notice to prevent the event from going ahead.

Police may object to a temporary event notice if they believe the use of premises for an event risks undermining crime prevention objectives. While this decision is a matter for the police, they may take into account previous offences committed, including breaches of licensing conditions.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the level of enforcement of the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of *(a)* the display of premises licences in licensed premises and *(b)* the display of the correct name of the designated premises supervisor in premises licences; [224061]

(2) how many *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals have been prosecuted for breaches of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of failure to display in licensed premises (i) premises licences and (ii) up to date details of the designated premises supervisor for those premises; and if he will make a statement. [224062]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Information relating to prosecutions or other enforcement actions on these subjects is held centrally by the Ministry of Justice. The Licensing Act 2003 did not come fully into force until 24 November 2005. The only full year for which figures are currently available is 2006.

The number of *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals who have been proceeded against at magistrates courts under section 57 of the Licensing Act 2003 in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table. Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants who were proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Licensing Act section 57[1] in England and Wales, 2006[2]

2006	*Number proceeded against*
Persons	3
Companies	0

[1] Includes the following statute(s) and corresponding offence description Licensing Act 2003 s.57. Failure to produce a premises licence or copy when required to do so.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit—Ministry of Justice Our ref: IOS 476-08 (Table) Contributions for PQ 224062

These data relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

However, this type of breach may have been dealt with informally through writing or licence review. We are confident that the range of compliance and enforcement options available to the relevant authorities are adequate to allow the enforcement agencies to ensure compliance with the legislation.

Art Works: Exports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what items have been recommended by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest as warranting a temporary export bar in each of the last five years. [223569]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* In 2006-07, 22 items were found by the Committee as warranting an export bar; in 2005-06 there were 18 items; in 2004-05 27 items; in 2003-04 13 items; and in 2002-03 23 items. Details of these items are set out in the following tables.

2006-07

Case 1	A painting by Francesco Solimena 'Joseph and Potiphar's Wife'
Case 2	A painting by Michiel Van Musscher 'Portrait of an artist in his studio'
Case 4	A watercolour painting by J M W Turner, 'The Dark Rigi, Lake of Lucerne', 1842
Case 5	The archive of Reverend William Gunn
Case 6	A watercolour painting by J M W Turner, 'Lake of Lucerne, from the Landing Place at Fluelen, looking towards Bauen and Tell's Chapel, Switzerland' c. 1815
Case 7	An Anglo-Saxon gilded mount with interlace decoration
Case 8	An Anglo-Saxon great square-headed brooch
Case 10	A watercolour painting by J M W Turner, 'The Blue Rigi, Lake of Lucerne, Sunrise', 1842
Case 11	A painting by Alonso Sanchez Coello, 'The Infante Don Diego'
Case 12	A collection of manuscript and printed maps cut as jigsaws and housed in a mahogany cabinet
Case 13	An eighteenth-century mantua and petticoat
Case 16	A felt appliqué and patch-worked album coverlet made by Ann West in 1820
Case 17	Diaries, correspondence and manuscript volumes of Mary Hamilton
Case 18	A painting by John Constable, 'Flatford Lock from the Mill House'
Case 21	A painting by Karel van Manderthe Elder, 'The Crucifixion'
Case 22	A bronze statuette of 'Marsayas' after Pierre Legros the Younger
Case 23	An eighteenth century embroidered man's banyan and waistcoat
Case 24	A 'jadeite' Neolithic axe-head from Sturminster Marshall, Dorset
Case 25	The guild roll of the Guild of St. Mary, Nottingham, 1371
Case 26	An Anglo-Saxon silver-gilt zoomorphic mount
Case 27	A fifteenth-century illuminated manuscript of the Hours of the Passion
Case 28	An eighteenth-century Union flag

2005-06

Case 1	A painting by Pietro di Francesco degli Orioli (1458-96), 'Adoration of the Shepherds', also known as 'The Nativity'
Case 2	An Anglo-Saxon gold coin of King Coenwulf of Mercia
Case 3	Seven Viking silver pieces (six off-cuts from silver ingots and a stamped arm-ring fragment)
Case 6	A medieval bronze jug
Case 7	The Codex Stosch
Case 10	A pair of paintings entitled 'View of the Grand Walk, Vauxhall Gardens' and 'The Rotunda, Ranelagh' by Giovanni Antonio Canal, Il Canaletto (1697-1768)
Case 11	An English breech-loading, magazine primed, flintlock fowling piece, 1718
Case 12	A silver cup and cover by Solomon Hougham presented to Captain Philip Bowes Vere Broke, HMS Shannon
Case 13	The Naval Gold Medal awarded to Captain Philip Bowes Vere Broke, HMS Shannon
Case 14	A medieval figure of a bronze equestrian knight
Case 15	A pair of brocaded ivory silk satin wall hangings, 'Verdures du Vatican', designed by Jean Demosthene Dugourc for King Carlos IV of Spain and woven to order by Camille Pernon in Lyon around 1799
Case 16	A painting by Luca Carlevarijs, 'View of the Molo, Venice, looking west'
Case 17	A Roman millefiori disc
Case 18	A painting by Naddo Ceccarelli, the 'Madonna and Child'
Case 19	A silver presentation trophy plateau by Solomon Hougham presented to Captain Philip Bowes Vere Broke, HMS Shannon
Case 20	A portrait of Louis XVI by Antoine-Francois Callet in a frame by Francois-Charles Buteux
Case 21	A George II Gothic painted cabinet attributed to William Hallett c. 1752
Case 22	A painting by Luca Carlevarijs, 'View of the Molo, Venice, looking west'

2004-05

Case 1	A Mantuan parcel-gilt and silvered bronze roundel
Case 2	A rare embroidered linen doublet c. 1650
Case 3	A rare silver Iron Age coin
Case 4	A painting by Jan Steen, 'The Burgher of Delft and his daughter'
Case 5	A painting by Francis Bacon, 'Study after Velasquez'
Case 6	A draft Royal Warrant for a patent for Robert Hooke's 'Watches with Springs'
Case 8	A painting by Hans Memling, 'Portrait of a Man in a Black Cap'
Case 10	A Mughal ceremonial dagger
Case 11	A Mughal flywhisk handle
Case 12	A Mughal silver huqqa set
Case 13	A Mughal flask
Case 14	A George II silver epergne by Paul Crespin, London 1748-49
Case 15	An illuminated medieval manuscript, the 'Macclesfield Psalter'
Case 16	An album of watercolours, 'Views of Calcutta', by James Baillie Fraser
Case 17	A Cartier bandeau
Case 18	A silk and wool gentleman's doublet c. 1600
Case 19	A marble sculpture by Benedetto Pistrucci
Case 20	A Charles II silver dish
Case 21	An oak coffer by William Beckford and H E Goodridge
Case 22	A gold, silver-gilt, lapis-lazuli and enamel clock by Gustave Baugrand, Paris, 1867
Case 23	A pink satin and black bugle beaded bodice c. 1640-50
Case 25	A painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds, 'The Archers'
Case 27	The Melchett Cast-Iron Fire Basket by Charles Sargeant Jagger c. 1930
Case 28	An Anglo-Saxon gold coin from the reign of King Coenwulf of Mercia
Case 29	A set of nineteen watercolours, 'Blair's Grave', by William Blake
Case 31	A Meissen armorial baluster vase and cover
Case 32	A pencil and black and red chalk drawing of Mary Hamilton by Sir Thomas Lawrence

2003-04

Case 2	The papers of Sir James Watt and his family
Case 3	A portrait of Sir James Watt by William Beechey
Case 5	A Regency carved mahogany centre table designed by Thomas Hope for his house in Duchess Street
Case 6	A pair of paintings by Claude-Joseph Vernet, 'Calme: A Landscape at Sunset with Fishermen Returning their Catch' and 'Tempete: A Shipwreck in Stormy Seas'
Case 7	A painting by Annibale Carracci, 'The Holy Family with the Infant Saint John the Baptist' ('The Montalto Madonna')
Case 9	A draft royal warrant for a patent for Robert Hooke's 'watches with springs'
Case 11	A painting the 'Virgin in Mourning' attributed to the Master of Moulins
Case 12	A Siena marble table made for William Beckford
Case 13	Four silver wine coolers: one pair by Robert-Joseph Auguste of Paris and one pair by Parker and Wakelin of London
Case 14	The archive of G King and Son
Case 15	A collection of manuscripts and printed maps mounted and cut as jigsaws, housed in a mahogany cabinet
Case 17	A painting by Richard Parkes Bonnington, 'French Coast with Fishermen'
Case 18	The archive of General Sir Eyre Coote

2002-03

Case 1	A full suit of armour c. 1495
Case 2	A pair of George IV ormolu and mother of pearl inlaid black and gilt-japanned papier-mâché vases, c.1830, the vases by Jennens and Bettridge, the mounts attributed to Edward Holmes Baldock
Case 4	A sallet by Lorenz Helmschmied, c. 1480
Case 5	Meissen figure of a vixen
Case 7	Meissen figure of a crouching king vulture
Case 8	Meissen figure of a turkey cock
Case 9	Queen Charlotte's emerald and diamond cross (licence refused—seller refused to accept V and A's matching offer)
Case 10	A miniature photograph album by Mary Dillwyn (1816-1906)
Case 11	A sketch of a horse and landscape by Sir Anthony Van Dyck (1599-1641)
Case 12	A portrait of 'The Lieutenant General', the Hon. Robert Monckton, by Benjamin West, 1764
Case 13	A Roman well-head, the Guilford puteal, c. 100BC
Case 14	An armchair designed by Marcel Breuer, 1936
Case 15	A dressing table designed by Marcel Breuer, 1936
Case 16	A drawing, 'Study of a Mourning Woman', by Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)
Case 17	'A Portrait of Omai' by Sir Joshua Reynolds, c. 1775-76
Case 18	'The Madonna of the Pinks' ('Madonna dei Garofani') by Raphael (1483-1520)
Case 19	A portrait of Richard Arkwright junior with his wife Mary and daughter Anne by Joseph Wright of Derby, 1790
Case 20	A pair of silver wall sconces with the mark of Thomas Corbett, 1701
Case 21	A marble statue of Sir George Cooke (1645-1740) by Sir Henry Cheere (1703-81)
Case 22	Letters and diaries of Claudius James Rich (1787-1821)
Case 23	A miniature of the Nativity, attributed to Jean Bourdichon, c. 1510
Case 24	A bronze incense burner attributed to Desiderio da Firenze, c. 1540
Case 25	A Roman marble statue of Venus, known as the 'Jenkins' or 'Barberini' Venus, 1st-2na century AD

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many items that have been subject to a temporary export bar have been purchased before the expiration of the bar. [223570]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The information requested is set out in the following table.

	Items available for acquisition	*Items acquired*
2006-07	19	12
2005-06	17	9
2004-05	25	9
2003-04	9	7
2002-03	23	11

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many temporary export bars his Department has placed on items in each of the last five years; and what items have been covered by such bars. [223571]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Of the 22 items recommended by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art to warrant an export bar in 2006-07, one item (Case 1) had its export licence application withdrawn following the Committee meeting. One item (Case 26) had its export licence application refused before a decision was taken on the application because the owner was unwilling to accept a matching offer. Therefore 20 items had a temporary export bar placed on them, including one item for which a licence was issued (Case 23) as evidence was supplied, during the first deferral period, that it had entered the UK within the last 50 years.

Details of the 20 items on which temporary export bars were placed in 2006-07 are set out in the following table.

2006-07

	Item
Case 2	A painting by Michiel Van Musscher "Portrait of an artist in his studio"
Case 4	A watercolour painting by J M W Turner, "The Dark Rigi, Lake of Lucerne", 1842
Case 5	The archive of Reverend William Gunn
Case 6	A watercolour painting by J M W Turner, "Lake of Lucerne, from the Landing Place at Fluelen, looking towards Bauen and Tell's Chapel, Switzerland" c. 1815
Case 7	An Anglo-Saxon gilded mount with interlace decoration
Case 8	An Anglo-Saxon great square-headed brooch
Case 10	A watercolour painting by J M W Turner, "The Blue Rigi, Lake of Lucerne, Sunrise", 1842
Case 11	A painting by Alonso Sanchez Coello, "The Infante Don Diego"
Case 12	A collection of manuscript and printed maps cut as jigsaws and housed in a mahogany cabinet
Case 13	An 18th century mantua and petticoat
Case 16	A felt appliqué and patch-worked album coverlet made by Ann West in 1820
Case 17	Diaries, correspondence and manuscript volumes of Mary Hamilton
Case 18	A painting by John Constable, "Flatford Lock from the Mill House"
Case 21	A painting by Karel van Mander the Elder, "The Crucifixion"
Case 22	A bronze statuette of "Marsayas" after Pierre Legros the Younger
Case 23	An 18th century embroidered man's banyan and waistcoat
Case 24	A 'jadeite' Neolithic axe-head from Sturminster Marshall, Dorset
Case 25	The guild roll of the Guild of St. Mary, Nottingham, 1371
Case 27	A 15th century illuminated manuscript of the Hours of the Passion
Case 28	An 18th century Union flag

Of the 18 items recommended by the Committee to warrant an export bar in 2005-06, one item (Case 16) had its export licence application withdrawn following the Committee meeting. Therefore 17 items had a temporary export bar placed on them.

Details of the 17 items on which temporary export bars were placed in 2005-06 are set out in the following table.

2005-06

	Item
Case 1	A painting by Pietro di Francesco degli Orioli (1458-96), "Adoration of the Shepherds", also known as "The Nativity"
Case 2	An Anglo-Saxon gold coin of King Coenwulf of Mercia
Case 3	Seven Viking silver pieces (six off-cuts from silver ingots and a stamped arm-ring fragment)
Case 6	A medieval bronze jug
Case 7	The Codex Stosch
Case 10	A pair of paintings entitled "View of the Grand Walk, Vauxhall Gardens" and "The Rotunda, Ranelagh" by Giovanni Antonio Canal, il Canaletto (1697-1768)
Case 11	An English breech-loading, magazine primed, flintlock fowling piece, 1718
Case 12	A silver cup and cover by Solomon Hougham presented to Captain Philip Bowes Vere Broke, HMS Shannon
Case 13	The Naval Gold Medal awarded to Captain Philip Bowes Vere Broke, HMS Shannon
Case 14	A medieval figure of a bronze equestrian knight
Case 15	A pair of brocaded ivory silk satin wall hangings, "Verdures du Vatican", designed by Jean Demosthene Dugourc for King Carlos IV of Spain and woven to order by Camille Pernon in Lyon around 1799
Case 17	A Roman millefiori disc
Case 18	A painting by Naddo Ceccarelli, the "Madonna and Child"
Case 19	A silver presentation trophy plateau by Solomon Hougham presented to Captain Philip Bowes Vere Broke, HMS Shannon
Case 20	A portrait of Louis XVI by Antoine-Francois Callet in a frame by Francois-Charles Buteux
Case 21	A George II Gothic painted cabinet attributed to William Hallett c. 1752
Case 22	A painting by Luca Carlevarijs, "View of the Molo, Venice, looking west"

Of the 27 items recommended by the Committee to warrant an export bar in 2004-05, two items (Cases 14 and 28) had their export licence applications refused before a decision was taken on the application because the owner was unwilling to accept a matching offer. Therefore 25 items had a temporary export bar placed on them.

Details of the 25 items on which a temporary export bar was placed in 2004-05 are set out in the following table.

2004-05

	Item
Case 1	A Mantuan parcel-gilt and silvered bronze roundel
Case 2	A rare embroidered linen doublet c. 1650
Case 3	A rare silver Iron Age coin
Case 4	A painting by Jan Steen, "The Burgher of Delft and his daughter"
Case 5	A painting by Francis Bacon, "Study after Velasquez"
Case 6	A draft Royal Warrant for a patent for Robert Hooke's 'Watches with Springs'
Case 8	A painting by Hans Memling, "Portrait of a Man in a Black Cap"
Case 10	A Mughal ceremonial dagger
Case 11	A Mughal flywhisk handle
Case 12	A Mughal silver huqqa set
Case 13	A Mughal flask
Case 15	An illuminated medieval manuscript, the "Macclesfield Psalter"
Case 16	An album of watercolours, "Views of Calcutta", by James Baillie Fraser
Case 17	A Cartier bandeau
Case 18	A silk and wool gentleman's doublet c. 1600
Case 19	A marble sculpture by Benedetto Pistrucci
Case 20	A Charles II silver dish

2004-05

	Item
Case 21	An oak coffer by William Beckford and HE Goodridge
Case 22	A gold, silver-gilt, lapis-lazuli and enamel clock by Gustave Baugrand, Paris, 1867
Case 23	A pink satin and black bugle beaded bodice c. 1640-50
Case 25	A painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds, "The Archers"
Case 27	The Melchett Cast-Iron Fire Basket by Charles Sargeant Jagger c. 1930
Case 29	A set of 19 watercolours, "Blair's Grave", by William Blake
Case 31	A Meissen armorial baluster vase and cover
Case 32	A pencil and black and red chalk drawing of Mary Hamilton by Sir Thomas Lawrence

Of the 13 items recommended by the Committee to warrant an export bar in 2003-04, three items (Cases 2, 3 and 15) had their export licence applications withdrawn before a decision was taken on the application. One application was refused (Case 9). Therefore nine items had a temporary export bar placed on them.

Details of the nine items on which a temporary export bar was placed in 2003-04 are set out in the following table.

2003-04

	Item
Case 5	A Regency carved mahogany centre table designed by Thomas Hope for his house in Duchess Street'
Case 6	A pair of paintings by Claude-Joseph Vernet, "Calme: A Landscape at Sunset with Fishermen Returning their Catch" and "Tempete: A Shipwreck in Stormy Seas"
Case 7	A painting by Annibale Carracci, The Holy Family with the Infant Saint John the Baptist ('The Montalto Madonna')
Case 11	A painting the 'Virgin in Mourning' attributed to the Master of Moulins
Case 12	A Siena marble table made for William Beckford
Case 13	Four silver wine coolers: one pair by Robert-Joseph Auguste of Paris and one pair by Parker and Wakelin of London
Case 14	The archive of G King and Son
Case 17	A painting by Richard Parkes Bonnington, "French Coast with Fishermen"
Case 18	The archive of General Sir Eyre Coote

Of the 23 items recommended by the Committee to warrant an export bar in 2002-03, no items had their export licence applications withdrawn following the Committee meeting. Therefore 23 items had a temporary export bar placed on them.

Details of the 23 items on which a temporary export bar was placed in 2002-03 are set out in the following table.

2002-03

	Item
Case 1	A full suit of armour c. 1495
Case 2	A pair of George IV ormolu and mother of pearl inlaid black and gilt-japanned papier-mâché vases, c. 1830, the vases by Jennens and Bettridge, the mounts attributed to Edward Holmes Baldock
Case 4	A sallet by Lorenz Helmschmied, c. 1480
Case 5	Meissen figure of a vixen
Case 7	Meissen figure of a crouching king vulture
Case 8	Meissen figure of a turkey cock
Case 9	Queen Charlotte's emerald and diamond cross (licence refused—seller refused to accept V and A's matching offer)
Case 10	A miniature photograph album by Mary Dillwyn (1816-1906)
Case 11	A sketch of a horse and landscape by Sir Anthony Van Dyck (1599-1641)
Case 12	A portrait of The Lieutenant General, the Hon. Robert Monckton, by Benjamin West, 1764
Case 13	A Roman well-head, the Guilford puteal, c. 100BC

	2002-03
	Item
Case 14	An armchair designed by Marcel Breuer, 1936
Case 15	A dressing table designed by Marcel Breuer, 1936
Case 16	A drawing, Study of a Mourning Woman, by Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)
Case 17	A Portrait of Omai by Sir Joshua Reynolds, c. 1775-76
Case 18	The Madonna of the Pinks (Madonna dei Garofani) by Raphael (1483-1520)
Case 19	A portrait of Richard Arkwright junior with his wife Mary and daughter Anne by Joseph Wright of Derby, 1790
Case 20	A pair of silver wall sconces with the mark of Thomas Corbett, 1701
Case 21	A marble statue of Sir George Cooke (1645-1740) by Sir Henry Cheere (1703-81)
Case 22	Letters and diaries of Claudius James Rich (1787-1821)
Case 23	A miniature of the Nativity, attributed to Jean Bourdichon, c. 1510
Case 24	A bronze incense burner attributed to Desiderio da Firenze, c. 1540
Case 25	A Roman marble statue of Venus, known as the 'Jenkins' or 'Barberini' Venus, 1st–2nd century AD

Art Works: Theft

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals for de-acquisitioning works of art and artefacts held in UK institutions found to be the fruit of spoliation; what the outcomes were of the consultations held on the restitution of spoliated objects with reference to the answers of *(a)* 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 102W and *(b)* 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 103W, on art theft; and if he will make a statement. [221668]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* Having considered the views expressed in response to the 2006 consultation paper, the Government are committed to introducing legislation as soon as possible to allow national museums, that are currently prevented from doing so, to return works of art spoliated during the Nazi era. A summary of the responses received to the consultation and the Government's conclusions are available on my Department's website. The Government are actively seeking a legislative opportunity to bring forward these changes.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many items *(a)* have been identified and *(b)* await determination as spoliated by the Nazis by the Spoliation Advisory Panel since it was established; how many confirmed spoliated items have (i) been returned to the original owners and (ii) have been the subject of compensation; in how many cases where compensation was recommended the original owner made representations for restitution; what the (A) names, (B) descriptions and (C) holding institutions are of each item (1) returned and (2) compensated for; and if he will make a statement; [221596]

(2) which UK institutions have returned artworks or artefacts found to be the fruit of spoliation during the Second World War to their rightful owners; what items have been so returned; and if he will make a statement. [221669]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* The Spoliation Advisory Panel has advised on eight claims since it was established in 2000 and is currently considering a ninth claim. The information sought on the claims determined is set out in the table.

Institution and date	*Item claimed*	*Outcome*
Tate (2001)	"View of Hampton Court Palace" by Jan Griffier the Elder	Claim upheld. The claimant sought and received an 'ex-gratia' payment.
Burrell Collection, Glasgow (2004)	"Still Life", formerly attributed to Chardin	Claim upheld. The claimant sought either the return of the painting or an 'ex-gratia' payment. The Panel recommended the return of the painting. The Burrell Collection decided they could not return the painting and made an 'ex-gratia' payment to the claimant instead.
British Library (2005)	"The Beneventan Missal"	Claim upheld. The claimant sought the return of the "Missal" and the British Library are trying to arrange a long-term loan to Italy.
Ashmolean Museum (2006)	"Portrait of a Young Girl in a Bow Window", attributed to Nikolaus Alexander Mair von Landshut	Claim rejected. The claimant did not specify whether they were seeking the return of the painting or an 'ex-gratia' payment.
British Museum (2006)	"The Holy Family" by Niccolo dell'Abbate; "An Allegory on Poetic Inspiration with Mercury and Apollo", by Nicholas Blakey; "Virgin and Infant Christ, adored by St Elizabeth and the Infant St John", by Martin Johann Schmidt; and "St Dorothy with the Christ Child" by School of Martin Schöngauer	Claim upheld. The claimant sought and received an 'ex-gratia' payment.
Courtauld Institute (2007)	"A lion", attributed to Carl Ruthart; "A dog lying down", attributed to Frans Van Mieris the elder; and "An architectural capriccio", attributed to Giuseppe Bibiena	Claim upheld. The claimant sought the return of and received the drawings.
Courtauld Institute (2007)	"St. Gregory the Great with Ss. Maurus and Papianus and St. Domitilla with Ss. Nereus and Achilleus"; "The Conversion of St. Paul"; and "The Bounty of James / Triumphing Over Avarice" by Sir Peter Paul Rubens	Claim rejected. The claimant sought the return of the paintings.
British Museum and Fitzwilliam Museum (2008)	"Porcelain dish" at the British Museum and "Monteith" (or glass cooler) at the Fitzwilliam Museum.	Claims upheld. The one claimant sought and received an 'ex-gratia' payment for the "Porcelian dish", which the British Museum is unable to deaccession and the restitution of the "Monteith", which the Fitzwilliam Museum was able to deaccession.

The Government are only aware of the outcome of claims that have been referred to the Spoliation Advisory Panel.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* is taking to publicise the procedure for making claims to the Spoliation Advisory Panel in respect of artworks and artefacts allegedly looted or spoliated during the Nazi regime; what consideration he has given to the recommendations of the Spoliation Advisory Panel for legislation to enable the return of spoliated items for UK collections; and if he will make a statement. [221670]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* The Cultural Property Advice website (www.culturalpropertyadvice.gov.uk), launched by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council in 2007 with support from my Department, provides advice and information to those searching for objects with an uncertain history lost or stolen during World War II and the Holocaust Era. The website includes a database of objects with uncertain provenance between 1933-45. Both this website and the department's own website provide information on the work of the Spoliation Advisory Panel.

The Government intend to introduce legislation to allow national museums, that are currently prevented from doing so, to return works of art spoliated during the Nazi era, as recommended by the panel in 2005. We continue to look for an early legislative opportunity to do so.

Arts: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in respect of what projects *(a)* the Arts Council, *(b)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, *(c)* Sport England and *(d)* English Heritage received ring-fenced funding in each of the last three years; what the cost of each such project was in each year; which projects he expects to receive such funding in each of the next three years; and what estimate he has made of each such project in each of the next three years. [204160]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* The non-departmental public bodies in question have provided the information in the following table. The table indicates those projects that have received ring-fenced funding in each of the last three years, and those scheduled to receive it in the next three years.

NDPB	*Financial year*	*Project*	*Cost (£)*
Arts Council England	2005-06	Creative Partnerships	31,444,000.00
		Young Peoples Arts Awards	294,000.00
		Youth Theatre	27,000.00
		Cultural Hubs	1,115,000.00
		Cultural Leadership Fund	83,329.00
		European Capital of Culture	0
		South Bank Centre	2,000,000.00
		North West—Capital Allocation	3,000,000.00
		Cultural Offer	0
		Research—Taking Part Survey	300,000.00
	2006-07	Creative Partnerships	34,000,000.00
		Young Peoples Arts Awards	458,000.00
		Youth Theatre	306,000.00
		Cultural Hubs	1,350,000.00
		Cultural Leadership Fund	4,266,000.00
		European Capital of Culture	1,250,000.00
		South Bank Centre	2,000,000.00
		North West—Capital Allocation	2,000,000.00
		Cultural Offer	0
		Research—Taking Part Survey	400,000.00
	2007-08	Creative Partnerships	34,800,000.00
		Young Peoples Arts Awards	700,000.00
		Youth Theatre	500,000.00
		Cultural Hubs	145,000.00
		Cultural Leadership Fund	4,600,000.00
		European Capital of Culture	250,000.00
		South Bank Centre	0
		North West—Capital Allocation	0
		Cultural Offer	0
		Research—Taking Part Survey	400,000.00
	2008-09	Creative Partnerships	35,739,000.00
		Young Peoples Arts Awards	700,000.00
		Youth Theatre	500,000.00
		Cultural Hubs	145,000.00
		Cultural Leadership Fund	4,600,000.00
		European Capital of Culture	250,000.00
		South Bank Centre	0
		North West—Capital Allocation	0
		Cultural Offer	0
		Research—Taking Part Survey	500,000.00
	2009-10	Creative Partnerships	36,704,000.00
		Young Peoples Arts Awards	—
		Youth Theatre	0
		Cultural Hubs	0
		Cultural Leadership Fund	3,500,000.00
		European Capital of Culture	0
		South Bank Centre	0
		North West—Capital Allocation	0
		Cultural Offer	3,000,000.00

NDPB	Financial year	Project	Cost (£)
		Research—Taking Part Survey	500,000.00
	2010-11	Creative Partnerships	37,695,000.00
		Young Peoples Arts Awards	[1]—
		Youth Theatre	0
		Cultural Hubs	0
		Cultural Leadership Fund	3,500,000.00
		European Capital of Culture	0
		South Bank Centre	0
		North West—Capital Allocation	0
		Cultural Offer	3,000,000.00
		Research—Taking Part Survey	500,000.00
MLA Council	2005-06 (actual)	Framework for the Future	1,950,000.00
		Renaissance	29,482,000.00
		Strategic Commissioning	1,990,000.00
		Find Your Talent	0
		Taking Part	100,000.00
		Joint research	0
		IDeA improvements Fund	80,000.00
		GIS claims fund	0
	2006-07 (actual)	Framework for the Future	1,890,000.00
		Renaissance	32,000,000.00
		Strategic Commissioning	2,338,000.00
		Find Your Talent	0
		Taking Part	80,000.00
		Joint research	0
		IDeA improvements Fund	80,000.00
		GIS claims fund	36,000.00
	2007-08 (actual)	Framework for the Future	2,000,000.00
		Renaissance	45,000,000.00
		Strategic Commissioning	2,000,000.00
		Find Your Talent	0
		Taking Part	80,000.00
		Joint research	0
		IDeA improvements Fund	120,000.00
		GIS claims fund	23,000.00
	2008-09 (planned)	Framework for the Future	0
		Renaissance	46,215,000.00
		Strategic Commissioning	2,240,000.00
		Find Your Talent	0
		Taking Part	87,000.00
		Joint research	60,000.00
		IDeA improvements Fund	78,000.00
		GIS claims fund	150,000.00
	2009-10 (planned)	Framework for the Future	0
		Renaissance	46,463,000.00
		Strategic Commissioning	[2]—
		Find Your Talent	2,000,000.00
		Taking Part	87,000.00
		Joint research	60,000.00
		IDeA improvements Fund	78,000.00
		GIS claims fund	150,000.00
	2010-11 (planned)	Framework for the Future	0
		Renaissance	47,744,000.00
		Strategic Commissioning	[2]—
		Find Your Talent	2,000,000.00
		Taking Part	87,000.00
		Joint research	65,000.00
		IDeA improvements Fund	78,000.00
		GIS claims fund	150,000.00
	2008-09	Cultural Leadership Programme	150,000.00
	2009-10	Cultural Leadership Programme	[2]—
	2010-11	Cultural Leadership Programme	[2]—
Sport England	2005-06	Community Club Development	20,000,000.00
		Sportsmatch	3,675,000.00
		Coaching	14,195,000.00
		School Club Links	4,500,000.00
		Step into Sport	4,000,000.00
		Competition Managers	100,000.00
		National Sports Foundation	0
		Football Foundation	0
		5 hour offer	0
		English Institute of Sport	0
	2006-07	Community Club Development	20,000,000.00
		Sportsmatch	3,675,000.00
		Coaching	14,370,000.00
		School Club Links	4,336,000.00
		Step into Sport	4,000,000.00
		Competition Managers	100,000.00
		National Sports Foundation	14,500,000.00
		Football Foundation	21,000,000.00

NDPB	Financial year	Project	Cost (£)
		5 hour offer	0
		English Institute of Sport	0
	2007-08	Community Club Development	17,000,000.00
		Sportsmatch	3,675,000.00
		Coaching	14,370,000.00
		School Club Links	4,336,000.00
		Step into Sport	4,00,000.00
		Competition Managers	100,000.00
		National Sports Foundation	19,300,000.00
		Football Foundation	16,000,000.00
		5 hour offer	0
		English Institute of Sport	0
	2008-09	Community Club Development	0
		Sportsmatch	0
		Coaching	0
		School Club Links	0
		Step into Sport	0
		Competition Managers	0
		National Sports Foundation	0
		Football Foundation	0
		5 hour offer	14,500,000.00
		English Institute of Sport	2,700,000.00
	2009-10	Community Club Development	0
		Sportsmatch	0
		Coaching	0
		School Club Links	0
		Step into Sport	0
		Competition Managers	0
		National Sports Foundation	0
		Football Foundation	0
		5 hour offer	13,500,000.00
		English Institute of Sport	700,000.00
	2010-11	Community Club Development	0
		Sportsmatch	0
		Coaching	0
		School Club Links	0
		Step into Sport	0
		Competition Managers	0
		National Sports Foundation	0
		Football Foundation	0
		5 hour offer	11,500,000.00
		English Institute of Sport	700,000.00
English Heritage	2005-06	Apethorpe Hall[3]	1,000,000.00
	2006-07	Apethorpe Hall[4]	3,300,000.00
	2007-08	Apethorpe Hall[3]	1,300,000.00
	2006-07	Apethorpe Hall	2,000,000.00
	2007-08	Apethorpe Hall	2,000,000.00

[1] To be decided
[2] To be announced
[3] The cost of the Apethorpe Hall repair project
[4] Includes £1.3 million purchase following the Compulsory Purchase Order

BBC: Internet

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that the BBC's proposals to launch ultra-local web services do not distort local media markets. [223589]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* This is a matter for the BBC Trust. As part of the Public Value Test considering the proposal, Ofcom will conduct a market impact assessment.

British Grand Prix

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish the minutes of his meeting with Bernie Ecclestone on 18 March 2008 on the British Grand Prix. [222690]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My meeting with Bernie Ecclestone of 18 March on the British Grand Prix was informal and as such no minutes were taken.

Creative Partnerships: Manpower

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed by Arts Council England *(a)* nationally and *(b)* regionally on Creative Partnerships. [224166]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested has been provided by Arts Council England and is set out in the table.

Organisation	2007-08
Arts Council—National Office	29
East	8
East Midlands	15
London	13
North East	11
North West	14
South East	22
South West	10
West Midlands	10
Yorkshire	10
Grand Total	142

Cultural Leadership Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff are employed by the Cultural Leadership Programme; and how much the programme spent on staffing in each of the last three years. [221047]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* Five members of staff are currently employed by the Cultural Leadership Programme: a director; acting assistant director; project manager; project co-ordinator; and administrator.

The Cultural Leadership Programme has provided the following figures for the amount spent on staffing in each of the last three years:

	£
2005-06	83,329
2006-07	127,550
2007-08	278,000

The increase in staffing costs reflects the development of the programme from a call for ideas and early scoping phase, through development of provision through partners, to offering a full programme of learning to leaders in the cultural and creative industries at all levels. Core staffing and administration costs represent only 4 per cent. of the total budget.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether those staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [221959]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Those staff in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and our agency, the Royal Parks who are entitled to business or first air travel are (i) encouraged to travel in a cheaper class to the destination but (ii) they would not be able to benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions his Department has instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220819]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not hold the requested information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has been heard in two appeals before Appellate Committees of the House of Lords in the last 10 years. In 2001, in Regina *v.* Independent Television Commission, Ex Parte TV Danmark 1 Limited [2001] UKHL 42, the Secretary of State intervened to support a successful appeal brought by the Independent Television Commission. In 2007, in Regina (on the application of Animal Defenders International) *v.* Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport [2008] UKHL 15, the Secretary of State successfully defended an appeal brought by Animal Defenders International.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221094]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department is committed to improving its energy efficiency and to deliver on the targets set down in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate. These are to: increase energy efficiency by 15 per cent. by 2010 relative to 1999-2000 levels; and to increase energy efficiency per square metre by 30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels.

To deliver on these targets, the Department has developed a detailed energy action plan which has identified areas where energy efficiency improvements can be made. To date, significant improvements have been gained in the installation of energy efficient light fittings, new main capital plant and the replacement of gas boilers. Automatic meter readers have been installed in DCMS buildings to enable us to monitor consumption half hourly.

The Department is accredited to the Carbon Trust's Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221110]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not entered into any new agreements to rent or purchase buildings since 1999.

If the Department does enter into new agreements to rent or purchase buildings in future it will ensure this is undertaken with full reference to the Office of Government Commerce's Common Minimum Standards for the Built Environment.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222027]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

(a) In the last 24 months the Department has refurbished its office at 2-4 Cockspur Street, London. Floor area: 6,157 square metres.

(b) In the last 24 months The Royal Parks has refurbished The Magazine in Kensington Gardens. Floor area: 300 square metres.

No offices have been newly occupied in the last 24 months.

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [221957]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since its launch in 2005, the Department's Taking Part survey has included ACORN codes. These data have been used to examine variations in sporting and cultural participation.

This month the Department purchased the additional Financial ACORN and Health ACORN codes as well as MOSAIC codes. These have been merged with the Taking Part survey data and results will be published later this year.

In 2006 the Royal Parks agency used ACORN codes to examine variations in the profile of park users against the profile of residents living in close proximity to the park.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223055]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There were no formal disciplinary breaches in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in the last 12 months.

Departmental Homeworking

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Upper Bann of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1830W, on departmental home working, if he will make it his policy to collate and maintain central records of home working by his Department's staff. [222538]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department is currently reviewing its flexible working policies and as part of that HR has set up a central database to record staff working patterns, including home working.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what types of data have been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [221960]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Neither the Department for Culture Media and Sport nor its agency (the Royal Parks) has sold any data under the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [221958]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not provide any permanent residential accommodation for use by civil servants.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221297]

Margaret Hodge: The cost of overtime paid to staff in each month between July 2007 and June 2008 by grade is shown in the table.

	Grade A(U)	*Grade A*	*Grade B*	*Grade C*	*Grade D*	£ *Total*
2007						
July	2,005	8,370	11,978	8,049	4,063	34,465
August	864	7,749	14,084	4,870	2,835	30,402
September	1,106	2,359	4,816	2,140	236	10,657
October	—	7,667	8,104	8,401	2,047	26,220
November	28	7,531	11,553	7,469	2,447	29,028
December	279	12,647	7,228	6,214	1,865	28,232
2008						
January	—	6,366	4,562	4,476	1,101	16,506
February	—	8,142	7,617	6,680	2,575	25,014
March	—	13,108	5,059	5,640	1,869	25,677
April	—	9,730	6,889	4,966	2,304	23,889
May	—	12,546	5,590	7,222	1,337	26,695
June	—	12,829	5,625	9,902	2,890	31,247

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221182]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All expenses are reimbursed in accordance with guidance set out in the Department's staff guide and the civil service code.

The reimbursable expenses claimed by press officers in the Department and its executive agency, the Royal Parks, in each of the last three years are set out in the table.

£

Amounts claimed by press officers

Financial year	*Department*	*Royal Parks*
2005-06	[1]6,259.86	88.20
2006-07	6,774.75	233.25
2007-08	2,568.72	31.06

[1] Excludes claims made through petty cash claims. These can be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [221955]

Margaret Hodge: I am providing a listing of trade suppliers who raised invoices for goods and services to DCMS in 2007-08 based on the purchase ledger history.

I am arranging for this information to be deposited in the House Library.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221371]

Margaret Hodge: Information on all public reviews and consultations initiated by my Department is available via the DCMS website (www.culture.gov.uk). The following list provides details of departmental public reviews and consultations since 27 June 2007:

DCMS public reviews and consultations

(i) Public reviews

McMaster Review—Assessing excellence in the arts 1 November 2007.

The consultation period was 1 to 30 November 2007.

(ii) Public consultations (in reverse date order)

Gambling Act 2005 (Variation of Monetary Limits) Order 2008 16 July 2008.

The consultation period will run from 17 July to 9 October 2008.

Proposed Gambling Act 2005 (Gaming Machines in Bingo Premises) Order 2008 25 June 2008.

The consultation period will run from Thursday 26 June 2008 to Friday 26 September 2008.

Consultation on Community Radio 31 March 2008.

The consultation period was 31 March 2008 to 6 June 2008.

Consultation on Television Multiplex Services (Reservation of Digital Capacity) Order 2008 18 April 2008.

The consultation period was 18 April 2008 to 9 May 2008.

Gambling Act 2005—Proposals for Gambling Commission Fees from 1 August 2008 10 March 2008.

The consultation period was 10 March 2008 to 2 June 2008.

Consultation on proposal to introduce a simplified process for minor variations to premises licences and club premises certificates 28 November 2007.

The consultation period was 28 November 2007 to 20 February 2008.

Consultation on draft regulations for museums on the publication of information about cultural objects on loan under Part 6 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 21 September 2007.

The consultation period was 21 September to 21 December 2007.

Regulatory Reform Order: Proposal to Remove the Requirement for the Designated Premises Supervisor for Community Premises 8 August 2007.

The consultation period was 8 August to 31 October 2007.

The Governance of Britain, Flag Flying 24 July 2007.

The consultation period was 27 July to 7 November 2007.

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a European agenda for culture in a globalizing world 29 June 2007.

The consultation period was 29 June to 10 September 2007.

The Gambling Act (Small Society Lotteries) (Registration of Non-Commercial Societies) Regulations 2007 12 June 2007.

The consultation period was 12 June to 30 July 2007.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Temporary Use Notices 31 May 2007.

The consultation period was 31 May to 23 August 2007.

DCMS Equality Scheme 2007-2010 Consultation 27 April 2007.

The consultation period was 27 April to 23 July 2007.

Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on the Review of Premises Licence Regulations 26 April 2007.

The consultation period was 26 April to 17 July 2007.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W, on departmental retirement, how many requests to work beyond the mandatory retirement age were received by his Department in each of the last five years. [222436]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the last five years three requests to work beyond the mandatory retirement age have been received by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport—one in 2005 and two in 2008.

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [222026]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department and its agency the Royal Parks have not made any applications under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in the last 24 months.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [221953]

Margaret Hodge: None.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency has with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agency paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221850]

Margaret Hodge: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department buys its electricity from EDF through the OGC Buying Solutions and is invoiced directly for this service. It does not have a direct contract with EDF.

(b) Our agency, the Royal Parks has one current contract for the supply of electricity with EDF.

(i) Payments over the past 10 years have been for electricity supply only. The Department only holds partial figures as prior to 2004-05, the payment for electricity on Cockspur street was being made directly by our previous facilities management contractors. The figures are broken down as follows:

	£
1998-99	63,378
1999-2000	46,427
2000-01	43,244
2001-02	47,232
2002-03	36,016
2003-04	52,745
2004-05	188,092
2005-06	253,620
2006-07	308,205
2007-08	276,742

(ii) Payments over the last 10 years for the Royal Parks are as follows:

	£
1999-2000	110,929
2000-01	101,533
2001-02	90,341
2002-03	111,098
2003-04	100,713
2004-05	105,763
2005-06	131,032
2006-07	141,196
2007-08	55,554
2008-09 (to date)	21,000

English Sports Council: Grants

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how the maintenance regime of a sports facility which has received a capital award from Sport England is monitored; what guidance and advice other than on the terms and conditions included in grant offer letters is given to successful grant applicants at the *(a)* pre- and *(b)* post-application stages; and what information on sports turf maintenance is issued by his Department and Sport England to applicants. [223468]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Monitoring arrangements vary from project to project, dependent on the size and type of grant. Sport England requires applicants to ensure that adequate funds are made available over the life time of the grant award, to ensure that the facility is maintained properly.

Sport England has advised that pre-application advice is supplied to applicants through both online support and one-to-one meetings. A sample of capital projects are monitored post completion. In addition, Sport England's regional offices are in contact with projects in their region on an ad hoc basis.

Technical Guidance on Natural Turf can be found on Sport England's website as a free download of the Natural Turf technical publication;

www.sportengland.org/se_facilities_naturalturf.pdf.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether a revenue tail to fund maintenance staff is a requirement for applicants for capital awards from Sport England; what discussions he has had with Sport England on such a requirement; and if he will make a statement. [223469]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Arrangements for the award and management of grants are primarily matters for Sport England. Sport England has advised that it does not require, as condition of grant, a revenue tail to fund maintenance staff. It does, however, require the applicant to ensure that adequate funds are made available over the life time of the grant award, to ensure that the facility is maintained properly. Sport England has advised that where it is known that replacement of elements of the capital facility will be required within the lifetime of the award, such as a synthetic turf surface, they will seek assurance that a replacement budget is established by the awardee to ensure the replacement is made.

Equality: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding the Big Lottery Fund has provided to each regional equality and diversity partnership in the last 12 months; and on what date each such payment was made. [222999]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Big Lottery Fund has advised that they have not received any applications for funding from regional equality and diversity partnerships.

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222266]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This Government are firmly committed to the importance of the EU in delivering on 21st-century challenges. The EU is of central importance to the work of HM Government across all Departments. It is relevant to a wide range of policy areas, and to the work of many Government officials; currently my Department employs five officials on such work.

Gambling: USA

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with *(a)* his EU counterparts and *(b)* European Commissioners on the conclusion of negotiations between the EC and the US on the US withdrawal of its gambling commitments from the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the consequent compensatory adjustments offered by the US in the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services. [220665]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* I have had no such discussions. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2124W, by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow West (Mr. Thomas), who has responsibility for trade and consumer affairs.

Historic Buildings: Protection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government has taken to protect historic buildings. [222312]

Margaret Hodge: Buildings that are of special historic or architectural interest are listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Listing protects a building against unauthorized demolition, alteration or extension and ensures that its special interest is taken into account when proposals are put forward that affect its character or appearance.

English Heritage, the Government's statutory adviser for the historic environment, gave £24 million in grants in 2007-08 to protect and encourage enjoyment of historic buildings and monuments. English Heritage recommended 564 buildings for listing, and during the year, 57 buildings were removed from the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register as their futures had been secured. English Heritage is a statutory consultee in the statutory planning process and gave advice on 17,090 consent applications in 2007-08.

In April 2008, the Government published a draft Heritage Protection Bill. The draft Bill contains provisions setting out a framework to unify heritage protection regimes, allow greater public involvement in decision-making and place heritage at the heart of the planning system, thereby making the system more transparent and making heritage protection easier to understand and manage.

Institute of Groundsmanship

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will discuss with Sport England making the Institute of Groundsmanship a national partner; and if he will make a statement. [223467]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Sport England has advised that the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) is one of several membership organisations who play a role in providing a range of services to the sporting landscape. The IOG has relationships with a number of national governing bodies but not with Sport England. Sport England has advised that it has no plans at present to increase the number of national partners that it supports.

Internet: Advertising

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to increase the powers of the Advertising Standards Authority to supervise advertising on the internet, with particular reference to its effect on children. [221541]

Margaret Hodge: No. The Advertising Standards Authority already have powers to deal with paid for space online and the rules in place to protect children in non broadcast advertising already apply.

Dr. Byron's report "Safer Children in a Digital World" recommended that

'the advertising industry should continue to drive forward activity already underway to 'futureproof' the current regulatory system, especially in relation to digital advertising'.

In particular the report said

'I recommend that consideration is given to how promotional marketing in non-paid for online space can be brought within the regulatory framework for advertising, in line with principles on the prevention of harmful and offensive advertising to children outlined in the CAP code'.

On 24 June we published our action plan from implementing the recommendations from the Byron Review which stated that we would take stock of the evidence in spring 2009 and encourage any further action as necessary.

Listed Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many listed buildings graded at *(a)* grade I, *(b)* grade II* and *(c)* grade II are in private ownership. [219352]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is not available. English Heritage's listed building system does not record types of ownership of listed buildings. English Heritage does however hold information on ownership of properties on the English Heritage at risk register.

London Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [221871]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are a key priority across Government. The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) was set up within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to oversee the delivery of Government objectives for the Games.

As of 1 September 2008 the GOE consisted of 71.7 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff. Of this total, no members of staff are working in roles defined as project management roles, 17 are working in roles mainly relating to legacy planning, 20 on roles mainly relating to project oversight and six on roles mainly relating to financial control/oversight. The remainder of staff work mainly on staging, strategic communications and parliamentary matters.

In terms of further specific posts relating to Olympic projects within DCMS, 7.8 FTE staff are employed on Olympic Programme Management, the Cultural Olympiad and in the Press Office. Of these, approximately 3.7 FTE are in roles relating to project management and approximately 1.1 FTE in roles relating to project oversight. The purpose of these posts is to manage the wider DCMS interests in relation to staging the Games such as elite sport, sport participation, tourism and culture. The remaining three FTE staff are full-time press officers.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Olympics on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 977W in regard to the number of FTE members of staff in the Olympic Delivery Authority.

Information relating to DCMS's other non-departmental public bodies who are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympics could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Future staffing levels in the GOE will remain under review, within the overall budgetary settlement agreed with HM Treasury.

Staffing levels for DCMS's NDPBs are primarily a matter for NDPBs.

Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Sport England, *(c)* English Heritage, *(d)* the Heritage Lottery Fund, *(e)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(f)* Arts Council England and *(g)* the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council in each of the last three years; what specific services were received; and what the value of each contract held has been. [203007]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following figures have been provided by the bodies requested. They include subscriptions to bespoke media monitoring services and the cost of press cuttings. They do not include the costs of any transcripts or recordings, fees to the Newspaper Licensing Authority, or analysis of press coverage.

	FIY 2005-06		*FIY 2006-07*		*FIY 2007-08*	
	Organisation	*£*	*Organisation*	*£*	*Organisation*	*£*
Arts Council England	Durrants	34,953	Artis Durrants	15,160	Durrants	88,080
	Romeike	29,452	Romeike	11,983	Cision	30,928
			Arena Durrants	24,800		
			Romeike	2,678		
			Cision	14,252		
DCMS	Cabinet Office Media Monitoring Unit	34,663	Cabinet Office Media Monitoring Unit	35,426.25	Cabinet Office Media Monitoring Unit	40,537.50
	EDS Press Cuttings	61,690	EDS Press Cuttings	86,945.43	EDS Press Cuttings	68,072.16
Sport England	Durrants	51,537	Durrants	55,411	Durrants	55,884
Big Lottery Fund[1]	TNS (UK wide)	11,081	TNS (UK wide)	11,399	TNS (UK wide)	15,089
	Newspicg (UK wide	1,469	Newsping (UK wide	3,231	Newsping (UK wide	1,616
	Meltwater(UK wide)	2,961	Meltwater (UK wide)	3,169	Meltwater(UK wide)	786
	LexisNexis (UK wide)	8,023	LexisNexis (UK wide)	4,334	LexisNexis (UK wide)	608
	Durrants (England)	39,573	Durrants (England)	53,813	Durrants (England)	89,005
	Stratamatrix (Wales)	1,255	Stratamatrix (Wales)	1,511	Stratamatrix (Wales)	1634

	FIY 2005-06		FIY 2006-07		FIY 2007-08	
	Organisation	*£*	*Organisation*	*£*	*Organisation*	*£*
	Media Markets (NI)	7,575	Media Markets (NI)	4,163	Media Markets (NI)	11,272
	The Press Data Bureau (Scotland)	4,799	The Press Data Bureau (Scotland)	6,038	The Press Data Bureau (Scotland)	5,361
	TNS Media Intelligence (Scotland)	4,286	TNS Media Intelligence (Scotland)	4,934	TNS Media Intelligence (Scotland)	9,044
English Heritage	Durrants	40,269	Durrants	54,558	Durrants	64,952
	TNS Media Intelligence	5,760	TNS	6,336	TNS	5,995
	GNN	45,360	GNN	46,656	—	—
Heritage Lottery Fund[2]	Cision Romeike, TNS Broadcast, Meltwater and PA Media Point	56,682	Cision Romeike, TNS Broadcast, Meltwater and PA Media Point	72,485	Cision Romeike, TNS Broadcast, Meltwater and PA Media Point	67,119
MLA Council	Durrants	11,789	Durrants	33,951	Durrants	38,229

[1] BIG media monitoring provides coverage across the UK for the delivery of half of national lottery good cause funding delivery as well as 'Awards For All'; a cross-distributor programme which is funded by four lottery distributors including BIG.
[2] HLF have advised us that for purposes of commercial confidentiality they are not able to disclose the individual costs associated with each supplier.
Note:
All figures are inclusive of vat, other than those concerning English Heritage.

Museums and Galleries: Finance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has for the funds within the Renaissance budget for 2008-09 which remain unallocated; and if he will make a statement. [221673]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Renaissance programme is managed by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and is covered by the Funding Agreement with the Department for 2008-09 to 2010-11. As at 31 July, £1,325,000 was unallocated in MLA's Renaissance programme contingency fund.

The MLA expects to commit the majority of this contingency during the second half of this financial year, subject to end-year flexibility arrangements agreed with the Department.

National Lottery Promotions Unit: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the National Lottery Distribution Fund has paid to the National Lottery Promotions Unit in each year since it came into being. [221044]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* The national lottery distribution fund has not made any direct payments to the national lottery promotions unit (NLPU). Under the terms of the licence to operate the national lottery, the NLPU receives the contribution to its funding on behalf of distributors by means of deductions from the operator's payments into the lottery distribution funds. The amounts received by the NLPU in respect of the distribution funds in each year were as follows:

	£
2003-04	194,860
2004-05	2,044,203
2005-06	1,530,933
2006-07	1,448,594
2007-08	1,812,900

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the National Lottery Promotions Unit has received from *(a)* Arts Council England, *(b)* the Arts Council of Wales, *(c)* the Scottish Arts Council, *(d)* the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, *(e)* Sport England, *(f)* the Sports Council for Northern Ireland, *(g)* Sport Scotland, *(h)* the Sports Council for Wales, *(i)* the Heritage Lottery Fund, *(j)* the UK Film Council, *(k)* Scottish Screen, *(l)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(m)* UK Sport and *(n)* the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund in each year since it came into being. [221045]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* Contributions to the funding of the national lottery promotions unit (NLPU) in respect of the lottery distributing bodies are made by means of deductions from the operator's payments into the lottery distribution funds. It is not possible, therefore, to disaggregate in respect of individual distributors. From the establishment of NLPU in 2003-04 to the end of 2005-06, contributions in respect of the lottery distributing bodies met 50 per cent. of NLPU's funding costs. With effect from 2006-07, the contributions in respect of the lottery distributing bodies have met 66.66 per cent. of NLPU's operating costs.

Quality of Life

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's definition of quality of life is. [220696]

Margaret Hodge: In 2007 Defra along with other Government Departments, devolved administrations and other stakeholders developed a common understanding of what wellbeing means in a policy context. This is now used across Government.

The common understanding across Government is that wellbeing is a positive physical, social and mental state, it is not just the absence of pain, discomfort and incapacity. It requires that basic needs are met, that individuals have a sense of purpose, that they feel able to achieve important personal goals and participate in society. It is enhanced by conditions that include supportive personal relationships, strong and inclusive communities, good health, financial and personal security, rewarding employment, and a healthy and attractive environment.

Along with the common understanding Defra released a provisional wellbeing indicator as part of their sustainable development indicators in your pocket 2007 (SDIYP). Last year DCMS contributed data on cultural and sporting participation by adults to the wellbeing indicator.

Royal Parks

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Transport on the implications for the Royal Parks of the proposals in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document; and if he will make a statement. [221758]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS has had no discussions with the Department for Transport on the proposals. The Royal Parks have responded to the consultation document.

Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people who participated in 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport *(a)* once a week, *(b)* twice a week, *(c)* three times a week, *(d)* four times a week and *(e)* five times a week, broken down by (i) Government region and (ii) local authority area in each of the last three years. [223658]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Information on participation since 2005-06, broken down by frequency and by region is available via the Active People Survey, commissioned by Sport England. Data relating to 2005-06, collected as part of Active People Survey 1 can be found on the Sport England website at the following link

<http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/research/active_people/active_people_1/active_people_survey_headline_results.htm>

Full detailed results are available via Active People Diagnostic, Sport England's online reporting and analysis tool, which is freely available to all. Due to the success of the Active People Survey 2005-06, Sport England is repeating the survey, and it will now run as a continuous annual survey. The second year of the survey commenced on 15 October 2007 and is due to report in November 2008.

Sports: Equal Opportunities

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards increasing participation in sport among people *(a)* from black and ethnic minority groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from low socio-economic groups and *(d)* who are female; and what steps he plans to take to make further progress in these areas. [223476]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The DCMS 'Taking Part' survey provides national data on sports participation.

The most recent results were published in June 2008 and provide provisional estimates from year 3 of the survey. The following tables provide a comparison between final baseline figures from year 1, final estimates from year 2 and provisional estimates from the first six months of year 3. There have been no statistically significant differences between the baseline and latest estimates for either of the two measures.

The first table indicates the percentage of people from the named groups that take part in active sport. The active sport indicator is defined as at least one occasion of participation in an active sport during the past four weeks.

	Year 1 (annual)	*Year 2 (annual)*	*Percentage Year 3 (six months)*
Black and minority ethnic	53.3	51.9	52.4
Limiting disability	32.3	31.2	30.0
Lower socio-economic	43.4	42.2	43.5
Females	47.7	46.2	46.0
All adults	53.7	53.4	53.3

The second table indicates the percentage of people from the named groups that take part in moderate level intensity sport. The moderate level intensity sport indicator is defined as participation in moderate intensity level sport for at least 30 minutes on three separate days during the past week.

	Year 1 (annual)	*Year 2 (annual)*	*Percentage Year 3 (six months)*
Black and minority ethnic	19.2	19.6	19.0
Limiting disability	9.5	9.4	9.8
Lower socio-economic	15.2	15.3	15.4
Females	18.5	18.3	17.6
All adults	20.9	21.5	21.6

A key element of Sport England's new three-year strategy (2008-11) is to get one million people doing more sport by 2012-13 and they will work with and through National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) to deliver this target. NGBs will be challenged through the Whole Sport plan process to consider how they can encourage the participation of under-represented groups.

Sports: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Big Lottery Fund has given to sport related activities in each of the last three years. [220511]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The Big Lottery Fund has advised that the following awards have been made for physical education and sport related projects through the Big Lottery Fund's sport and physical activity programmes in each of the last three financial years:

Financial year	£ *Awards*
2005-06	£357,753,130
2006-07	£266,503,102
2007-08	£143,604,930

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the £100 million funding for young people's sport announced by the Prime Minister in 2007 has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent to date; and on what such funds have been spent. [223568]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* All the funding announced by the Prime Minister has been allocated through the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People for the 2008-11 period.

Since April 2008, £11.7 million of the £12.9 million allocated to the DCSF and £3.9 million of the £14.5 million allocated to the DCMS for the 2008-09 financial year has been spent.

This funding is to support a range of programmes within the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People, including Sport Unlimited; Professional Coaches; FE Sport Coordinators; Competition Managers; Multi-Sport Disability Clubs; Intra-School Competition; and School Sport Partnerships.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222175]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work. A stress management framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards is available to all employees and gives easy to use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

Strip Clubs

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Licensing Act 2003 has been subject to a gender impact assessment, with particular reference to the licensing of lap dancing clubs. [212218]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Licensing Act 2003, which received Royal Assent in July 2003, and subsequent related legislation have all been subject to required impact assessments. This would have included elements of equality impact, although there has been no gender impact assessment specifically related to entertainment of an adult nature such as lap dancing and similar performances.

Supporting Excellence in the Arts

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the Programme Board and Steering Group convened to discuss the details of implementing the recommendations of Sir Brian McMaster's review, Supporting Excellence in the Arts. [223475]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* I will place a copy of the minutes in the Libraries of both Houses.

Swimming: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what central funding will be given to local authorities to meet the Government's pledge of offering free swimming to the over 60s and under 16s; and what mechanism and methodology will be used to calculate the funding to each local authority. [222836]

Mr. Sutcliffe: £15 million per annum will be provided according to a formula based on the size of the local 60 or over population to those local authorities who choose to provide free swimming for this group. £25 million per annum will be available to provide free swimming for those aged 16 or under. Allocations will be determined subject to expressions of interest.

In addition, we are providing a total of £60 million for capital projects designed to modernise pool provision, which are integrated with free swimming.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223029]

Margaret Hodge: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with rules set out in the Department's Staff Guide under Travel and Subsistence and consistent with Civil Service Management Code.

The expenditure on taxis by the Department in financial year 2007-08 was £36,359.08. The figure represents expenditure on taxis provided by the Department's contracted agent, black cabs and other taxis in London and elsewhere. In addition, some expenditure on black cabs and taxis is included in general travel and subsistence and cannot be separately identified except at disproportionate cost.

The Department's agency, the Royal Parks, does not itemise expenditure on taxi separately on its accounting system and the cost of disaggregating this expenditure manually from the relevant travel claims would be disproportionate to the amount involved.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [213498]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 24 June 2008]:* The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not commissioned or funded the production of any television programmes in the last three years, or in 2008-09 to date.

Tourism: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to encourage people from ethnic minorities to visit the countryside. [218166]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS provides grant in aid to VisitBritain to promote England to the British and Britain to the rest of the world, their Rural Escapes campaign has run for two years and is aimed at attracting all sections of society to rural locations in England and has involved print, website and broadcast advertising.

VisitBritain's international inbound tourism strategy involved a campaign around Bollywood film locations aimed specifically at the Indian market. The imagery used by Britain on View, VisitBritain and enjoyEngland, is designed to reflect the fact that visitors from all ethnic backgrounds are to be encouraged to visit rural and urban destinations within the UK.

World Heritage Sites

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the selection process for UNESCO World Heritage Sites; and if he will make a statement. [219053]

Margaret Hodge: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave her on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1211W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what specific provisions are provided by his Department for *(a)* the families of service personnel and *(b)* the families of service personnel on operations. [222071]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Service Personnel Command Paper The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans (Cm 7424), published on 17 July, sets out the first ever cross-Government strategy for support to our service personnel, their families and veterans. The strategy will ensure that service personnel and their families are not disadvantaged when seeking access to state benefits and gives improved access to employment programmes, such as new deal.

The families of service personnel already have access to the full range of benefits and services in the same way as those of non-service personnel. There are also provisions targeted specifically at family members who are accompanying service personnel overseas on operations.

For example, family members who are temporarily absent from Great Britain because they live with a serving member of the forces as part of a family are not disqualified from receiving incapacity benefit, disability living allowance, attendance allowance or carer's allowance. This will also apply to the employment and support allowance from October 2008. Partners of current or former armed forces personnel can also have fast-track access to the Gateway stage of the new deal for young people and new deal 25+ and, from April 2009, to Stage 3 of the revised jobseeker's allowance programme.

Some spouses and civil partners who accompany their family overseas occasionally find it hard to get paid employment while there. This may adversely affect their national insurance contribution record for entitlement to a State Pension as well as access to contribution based working age benefits. A Ministerial commitment was included in the Command Paper to consider the award of National Insurance credits in these circumstances.

Child Support

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many cases of child support administration the computer system has been incapable of producing a result and the case transferred to manual management in each of the last three years. [222024]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in how many cases of child support administration the computer system has been incapable of producing a result and the case transferred to manual management in each of the last three years. [222024]

The information requested is routinely published in Table 20 of the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics and further information on clerical cases is set out in the accompanying notes to the table. The latest copy is available in the House of Commons Library or via the internet at: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the financial effects on parents without care facing debt recovery action for outstanding child maintenance payments by the Child Support Agency of the sanction of *(a)* 40 per cent. deductions on net income and *(b)* use of debt recovery agents. [223863]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment has been made of the financial impact on parents without care facing debt recovery action for outstanding child maintenance payments by the Child Support Agency of the sanction (a) 40 per cent. deductions on net income and (b) use of debt recovery agents. [223863]

The financial impact of recovering child maintenance debt is considered for all parties involved in a child maintenance calculation before determining a suitable repayment level. The circumstances of each individual case are considered including any representations of hardship from the non-resident parent as well as the size of the debt and any other relevant factors. Should the financial circumstances of the non-resident parent prevent immediate full repayment of the child maintenance debt then the Agency will attempt to negotiate the repayment of the child maintenance debt as quickly as possible to obtain the best possible outcome for the qualifying child and the parent with care while taking account of the circumstances of the non-resident parent.

As a guideline the Agency's view is that a complete recovery period of up to two years is broadly acceptable if all the circumstances of the case genuinely warrant such a lengthy period; as an organisation with a statutory duty to consider the welfare of any children affected by our decisions, the Agency can only justify accepting repayment agreements of more than two years in special circumstances. In a proportion of cases, this means that a repayment agreement of up to forty per cent of net earnings, which includes any regular maintenance liability and repayment of arrears, will be appropriate.

Where negotiations fail to produce an acceptable repayment offer the Agency will consider recovery through the enforcement measures available. In many cases a Deduction from Earnings Order will be imposed which requires an employer to deduct child maintenance payments at source. These deductions will not exceed forty per cent of net earnings. In cases where this is not appropriate, the Agency can apply to the courts for a liability order confirming the debt, and allowing it to pursue other legal enforcement action.

The Agency also has the power to contract debt collection agencies to recover outstanding debt on its behalf as this is an area where the expertise of private agencies can be particularly effective in helping to get more money to more children. The provisions authorising another person/organisation to carry out functions relating to child support came into force on 3 July 2006. Certain cases with outstanding debt were reviewed and where the non-resident parent failed to make an acceptable repayment offer referral was made to a debt collection agency. The process for considering the financial impact of recovering debt mirrors that used within the Child Support Agency and outlined above. There are mechanisms in place to ensure that cases are correctly handled.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency new scheme cases have been uncleared within six months in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [223906]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency new scheme cases have been uncleared within six months in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. [223906]

The information you have requested is provided in the attached table which highlights the significant improvements the Agency has made to client service under its three year Operational Improvement Plan.

In addition to the overall reduction in uncleared cases, the Agency now clears 81% of all new applications within 12 weeks, already meeting the March 2009 Secretary of State target to clear 80% of cases in 12 weeks.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Current scheme uncleared applications over six months old

	Uncleared applications over six months old			
Month	*Great Britain*	*North East*	*South Tyneside*	*Jarrow*
June 2003	2,800	100	—	—
June 2004	79,500	3,900	300	100
June 2005	142,100	7,600	600	300
June 2006	135,000	7,600	500	200
June 2007	88,900	6,100	400	200
June 2008	62,700	4,800	300	100

'—' Indicates a figure less than 50.

Notes:

1. Figures include all uncleared applications over six months old.
2. As the current scheme came into existence in 2003, figures only go back to this date.
3. Cases have been allocated to the North East region, Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency and South Tyneside Local Authority by matching the postcode of the parent with care against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.
4. Many uncleared applications will not have reached the point where the address details of the non-resident parent or parent with care have been recorded on the CS2 or CSCS computer systems and so can not be allocated to a geographical area. Such applications have been included under the Great Britain figure but are excluded from the regional breakdowns. Approximately 5,600 applications (9 per cent. of all uncleared applications) over six months old fall into this category.
5. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases relating to residents of *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK the Child Support Agency has dealt with in each year since 1997. [223962]

Mr. Plaskitt: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1945W.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency case closures there were in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [223986]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new scheme cases were cleared by the Child Support Agency within six months in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [223988]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many new scheme cases were cleared by the Child Support Agency within six months in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. [223988]

At present, the Agency operates two schemes, the original scheme applying to cases received by the Agency from 1993, and assessed under the Child Support Act 1991, and the current scheme, sometimes known as the new scheme, applying to cases received by the Agency from 2003 and assessed under the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000.

The information provided in the attached table relates to current scheme cases from 2003 only.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency—Current scheme case clearances under six months old

	Clearances under six months old			
Month	*Great Britain*	*North East*	*South Tyneside*	*Jarrow*
2003-04	113,100	4,200	300	200
2004-05	137,200	4,400	300	200
2005-06	190,900	5,900	400	200
2006-07	219,000	6,100	400	200
2007-08	260,000	9,100	600	300

Notes:

1. Figures include all current scheme application clearances under six months old.
2. As the current scheme came into existence in 2003, figures only go back to this date.
3. Cases have been allocated to the North East region, Jarrow parliamentary constituency and South Tyneside local authority by matching the postcode of the parent with care against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.
4. Applications may be classed as cleared when the application is rejected or withdrawn. These applications can be rejected or withdrawn without the full address details of the non-resident parent or parent with care being recorded on the CS2 or CSCS computer systems and so can not be allocated to a geographical area. Such clearances are included in the Great Britain total but excluded from the regional breakdowns. Over 35 per cent. of clearances of applications under six months old fall into this category.
5. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
6. '-' indicates a figure less than 50.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance is issued by the Child Support Agency on absent fathers who pay larger than average contributions into their pension scheme thereby reducing the sum payable in child maintenance; and if he will amend this guidance to combat this practice. [224163]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what guidance is issued by the Child Support Agency on absent fathers who pay larger than average contributions into their pension scheme thereby reducing the sum payable in child maintenance; and if he will amend this guidance to combat this practice. [224163]

There is currently no limit to the amount of contributions a non-resident parent can make to an occupational pension within the child maintenance system.

A parent with care can however request a "variation" to the amount of the child maintenance liability if he or she believes that there are exceptional circumstances that are not covered by the basic rules. In particular a parent with care can apply for a variation where a non-resident parent has unreasonably reduced the amount of their income by diverting it elsewhere, which can be taken into account when making a maintenance calculation.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support: Proof of Identity

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will require mothers who name the wrong father to the Child Support Agency to pay the full costs of DNA paternity testing involved. [223984]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no plans to require mothers to pay the full cost of DNA paternity testing where they have named a man later proved not to be the father. The current system is working well with only 1 per cent. of cases needing a DNA test to resolve disputed parentage and in less than 0.2 per cent. of cases a DNA test fails to prove paternity.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government carbon offsetting fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul flights. [222130]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department joined the Government carbon offsetting fund (GCOF) at its outset in 2006-07. The following air mileage was used to calculate the payment for that year:

Short-haul: [1]7,175,100 miles (11,551,911 kilometres)

Long-haul: 976,660 miles (1,606,233 kilometres)

[1] Short-haul data includes domestic air mileage as required by the GCOF guidance for 2006-07.

This equates to a total of £37,845.74 in offsetting costs for 2006-07.

Figures for 2007-08 are subject to confirmation.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether those staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [222137]

Mrs. McGuire: All official travel within the Department is carried out in accordance with the requirements of both the Civil Service Management Code and the Departmental Business Travel Policy.

The Department's Business Travel Policy enables staff only to travel by business class for trips outside of the UK and no overseas business class tickets may be purchased for flights under two and a half hours duration. However, staff are advised always to consider travel in a cheaper class to their destination and they do not benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. DWP recommends economy class as the preferred method of air travel regardless of the destination and flight duration and first class travel is never permitted.

The Civil Service Management Code can be accessed at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/doc/CSMC_April08.doc

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222129]

Mrs. McGuire: Details of the locations of newly occupied offices and offices that have been refurbished in the last 24 months by the Department, and the floor area of each in square metres, will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Co-ordination

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the timetable is for the implementation of the Tell Us Once service recommended in the Varney review; and whether persons will be able to *(a)* opt in and *(b)* opt out of the scheme. [222691]

Mrs. McGuire: A business case will be submitted to Government in April 2009. If approval is given the service will be rolled out on a national basis from 2009 onwards.

It will be the individual's decision whether or not to use the service.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many notifications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies made to the Information Commissioner following the loss or mishandling of personal information or data in each of the last three years; and what was notified in each case. [222905]

Mr. Timms: The Department for Work and Pensions has published details of the personal data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its resource accounts published on 13 August 2008.

Before November 2007 the Information Commissioner's Office did not specifically keep records of instances of security breaches.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in government.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223043]

Mrs. McGuire: We are unable to provide an answer in the format required. The most serious category of misconduct in the Department for Work and Pensions is gross misconduct, which may include different breaches of the Department's standards of behaviour. Each case is treated on its merits and the Department does not treat any act of gross misconduct as being more or less serious than another.

The Department's standards of behaviour and discipline policies are on the Department's internal intranet and are available to each employee.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1028W, on departmental home working, if he will make it his policy to collate and maintain central records of home working by his Department's staff. [222533]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP employees may work from home in two categories:

(a) On an ad hoc basis under our flexible working framework; and

(b) Permanently, on a contractual basis.

Statistical data are not collected about ad hoc home working arrangements, managers may exercise discretion and authorise ad hoc home working for a variety of reasons.

Details of contractual home workers are held on individual clerical records. To extract these data would be at disproportionate cost.

The Department has no plans to collate and maintain central records of employees home working.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what types of data have been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222138]

Mrs. McGuire: We can confirm that no data have been sold by the Department or its Agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222136]

Mrs. McGuire: No permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in the Department for Work and Pensions.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222133]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions purchases goods and services from a significantly large number and variety of suppliers every year and information in the format requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, a list of the names and addresses of the Department's top 30 suppliers for 2007-08 (by value of commercial expenditure), and which is readily available, has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been seconded to public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies in each of the last five years. [222198]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the number of staff in *(a)* the Department for Work and Pensions and *(b)* its agencies that have been seconded to public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies in each of the last five years is not available in the format requested.

The Department introduced a new personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007. Since April 2007 details of secondments out have been recorded under general headings. The name of the organisation is given but no details of the type of organisation.

To extract more detailed information from individual records under this category would be at disproportionate cost.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff from public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies have been seconded to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [222199]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on numbers of staff from public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies that have been have been seconded to *(a)* the Department for Work and Pensions and *(b)* agencies of the Department for Work and Pensions is not collected centrally. This is handled locally by individual businesses. This information is therefore not available in the format requested.

To extract more detailed information from individual records under this category would be at disproportionate cost.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many persons claimed the care component of disability living allowance in each year since its introduction, broken down by type of disability; and how much was paid to claimants with each disability type in each year at the *(a)* highest, *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate. [222516]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of disability living allowance in each year since its introduction had a learning disability as *(a)* a main disabling condition and *(b)* in addition to a main disabling condition which was not a learning disability. [222517]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance cases in payment where learning difficulties are cited; in Great Britain, as at February each year

	Number
1993	124,900
1994	148,200
1995	165,100
1996	180,200
1997	191,400
1998	202,300
1999	210,400
2000	218,500
2001	225,800
2002	236,300
2003	243,700
2004	252,400
2005	260,900
2006	269,100
2007	279,100
2008	293,500

Notes:
1. Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide
2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221835]

Mrs. McGuire: Contracts with EDF for the supply of electricity are managed on behalf of the Department by its estates partner Land Securities Trillium. These contracts

are additional to the main suppliers for energy and are generally legacy arrangements for supply of electricity or meter operating activities, where it has been necessary for the Department to occupy additional premises. The supply for these sites is being transferred from EDF to our main providers as the contracts expire. The following table provides details of the amounts paid to EDF for electricity supplies and charges for meter services since 1998. It is not possible to provide separate figures for electricity supplies and meter service charges nor to separate out the payments made by the Department and its agencies.

	£
1998	33,856.40
1999	178,281.49
2000	19,653.23
2001	13,423.03
2002	6,860.22
2003	6,763.58
2004	14,216.70
2005	226,216.69
2006	329,267.59
2007	363,861.59

Employment and Support Allowance: Radiotherapy

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the operation of the employment and support allowance will include criteria relating to those experiencing the side effects of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. [221919]

Mr. Timms: Claimants receiving intravenous, intraperitoneal or intrathecal chemotherapy or recovering from that treatment, will be automatically treated as having limited capability for work and so be entitled to employment and support allowance without the need to undertake a work capability assessment. These claimants will also be automatically treated as having limited capability for work-related activity and so will be placed in the support group for employment and support allowance and receive a higher rate of that benefit.

Claimants receiving radiotherapy will also be treated as having limited capability for work in any week when they are having treatment or recovering from treatment.

Claimants undergoing other forms of chemotherapy, or who are between courses of radiotherapy, will have their entitlement to employment and support allowance individually assessed on the basis of the effect their illness or treatment has on their physical or mental function. Depending on the severity of those effects they may be assessed as being entitled to the work-related component or the support component of employment and support allowance.

European Social Fund: Trade Unions

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much each UK trade union, and its subsidiary, received from the European Social Fund in the last period for which figures are available. [222317]

Mr. Plaskitt: In 2000-07, the Trades Union Congress received £13.16 million from the European Social Fund in England to deliver 41 employment and skills projects. The Department does not hold information on funding for individual trade unions.

Incapacity Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of awards for *(a)* non-means tested incapacity benefit and *(b)* income support on grounds of incapacity for work have been made to those who are terminally ill in the last three years. [224030]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Information about the proportion of income support claimants that are terminally ill is not available. The available information is in the following table.

Proportion of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants who are terminally ill

Quarter ending	*As a total caseload (percentage)*
2005	
May	0.03
August	0.03
November	0.03
2006	
February	0.03
May	0.03
August	0.04
November	0.03
2007	
February	0.03
May	0.03
August	0.03
November	0.03
2008	
February	0.03

Notes:
1. All incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance awards are non-means tested; figures include national insurance contributions only cases.
2. Figures are based on a 5 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. The 'terminally ill' category comes from an indicator on the incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance data; no such indicator exists on the income support data.
4. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources.
5. Caseload figures have been uprated in line with WPLS 100 per cent. data and rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of recipients of non-means tested incapacity benefit are awarded income support in addition to incapacity benefit due to qualification for the *(a)* disability and *(b)* enhanced disability premium. [224156]

James Purnell: Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance are wholly non-means tested benefits. The available information is in the table.

Proportions of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants that are also in receipt of the disability premium and enhanced disability premium elements of income support

Percentage

	Disability premium	*Both disability and enhanced disability premiums*
May 2007	33.3	5.2
August 2007	33.3	5.3
November 2007	33.3	5.4
February 2008	33.6	5.5

Note:
1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS.

Incapacity Benefit: Applications

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new claims for non-means tested incapacity benefit were awarded to *(a)* single persons aged under 35, *(b)* single persons aged 35 to 44, *(c)* single persons aged 35 to 65, *(d)* couples in which the claimant was aged under 35, *(e)* couples in which the claimant was aged 35 to 44 and *(f)* couples in which the claimant was aged 35 to 65 in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [224026]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Details of partners are recorded in cases where an increase is paid for a dependant adult who is caring for a child, or where the spouse is aged 60 or over. Information is not otherwise available on those claimants who have a partner.

The available information is in the following table.

New incapacity benefit claims in the 12 months to November 2007

	Single	*With a partner*
Under 35	225,200	400
Between 35 and 44	142,000	800
Between 35 and 65	389,100	1,800

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit is not means-tested.
2. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources.
3. Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
5. New claimant figures for the latest available quarter. (February 2008) do not include any late notifications, and have therefore not been used.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample

Income Support: Disabled

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new claims of income support on the grounds of incapacity for work for which the claimant qualified for the enhanced disability premium from the start of the claim were awarded to *(a)* single persons aged under 35, *(b)* single persons aged 35 to 44, *(c)* single persons aged 35 to 65, *(d)* couples with claimant aged under 35, *(e)* couples with claimant aged 35 to 44 and *(f)* couples with claimant aged 35 to 65 in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [223941]

James Purnell: The requested information is not available.

Income Support: Mortgages

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many home owners in proceedings relating to repossession have applied for income support for mortgage interest in the last two years. [222396]

Mr. Plaskitt: The requested information is not available.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent *(a)* discussions and *(b)* joint working there has been with (i) the Department for Communities and Local Government and (ii) HM Treasury on income support for mortgage interest in relation to changes in the economic performance of the housing market. [222397]

Mr. Plaskitt: We continue to work jointly with other Government Departments to consider how best we can support the minority of borrowers who may be facing difficulties.

Jobcentres: Kilburn

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the impact assessment on the closure of the Kilburn Jobcentre Plus office to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [221764]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your question asking when he expects the impact assessment on the closure of Kilburn Jobcentre Plus to be completed. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As part of our continuing national review of Jobcentres, a proposal was put forward to close six Jobcentre Plus offices in London. Kilburn Jobcentre Plus was one. The review is a consequence of the development of alternative channels for our customers to access our services and the subsequent reduction in the number of customers who need to visit a Jobcentre.

In addition, there has been a shift towards a more individualised service for our most disadvantaged customers delivered in partnership with the private and voluntary sectors. This has increased outreach work, for example in Children's Centres and partnership with providers, particularly private sector led New Deal and Pathways to Work which are provided outside of our office network.

A seven week consultation exercise took place between 3 March and 18 April 2008 with a range of stakeholders. This included the completion of a Diversity Impact Assessment. We are considering the feedback from the consultation before making a recommendation to Ministers on the closure of Kilburn Jobcentre Plus.

Should a decision to close Kilburn Jobcentre be made, the Diversity Impact Assessment will be published on the Jobcentre Plus website.

Jobcentres: North East

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much is planned to be spent on local Jobcentre Plus centres in the North East region over the next 12 months for the provision of access to online job-search facilities and one to one advice. [222632]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your question asking how much is planned to be spent on local Jobcentre Plus centres in the North East region over the next 12 months for the provision of access to online job-search facilities and one to one advice. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The requested information is not available.

Online job-search facilities are available in each of our 45 Jobcentre Plus offices in the North East region via "Jobpoints". In the year to June 2007 which is the most recent figure available, the contract with our local IT supplier to maintain the Jobpoints cost the Agency £230,897. Jobsearch facilities are also available via the internet. However, this is a national service and cannot be broken down by region. This year's financial allocation for staffing in the North East Region's Jobcentres is £49.4m to March 2009. This includes £17,227,212 for Personal Advisors and £5,334,184 for staff providing regular face to face support during fortnightly job reviews. I am unable to provide you with a separate figure for one to one advice.

Customers are now using our Jobcentres differently. More of our face-to-face customer contact is on an appointment basis and information on job vacancies is readily available by telephone and the internet. This enables staff in our offices to focus on those customers in greatest need of support to return to work.

Jobseekers Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assistance is available to a person claiming jobseekers allowance with *(a)* a mental health condition and *(b)* a drug or alcohol addiction; [203270]

(2) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the availability and *(b)* the ability actively to seek work of jobseekers allowance claimants who have (i) a mental health condition and (ii) an alcohol or drug addiction; [203271]

(3) what mandatory requirements there are for a person with *(a)* a drug addiction or *(b)* an alcohol addiction claiming jobseekers allowance to seek treatment as a condition of receiving benefit; [203273]

(4) what mandatory treatment programmes there were for a person with *(a)* a drug addiction or *(b)* an alcohol addiction claiming jobseeker's allowance. [203274]

Mrs. McGuire: A person must be available for and actively seeking work in order to be eligible for jobseeker's allowance. A person can restrict his or her availability for work on grounds of a medical condition. This restriction could, for example, relate to the type of work or the hours they are available, but active search for employment must continue. When, as the result of a health problem, someone cannot meet these conditions, their claim for jobseeker's allowance cannot continue and he or she would normally claim incapacity benefit instead, or other benefits appropriate to their individual circumstances.

Jobcentre Plus Disability Employment Advisers work with customers who need more extensive support because of their health condition. They can offer help in finding work and advise customers about a range of specialised support available such as Workstep, Work preparation and Residential Training colleges and Access to Work.

Jobseeker's allowance customers with a history of drug and alcohol misuse can volunteer for early access to the new deal gateway in order to take advantage of the more intensive support on offer. Under the flexible new deal, which will replace the mandatory new deals from October 2009, service providers can decide to offer condition management programmes as part of the tailored back to work action plans drawn up for longer term jobseeker's allowance customers.

We do not currently require drug or alcohol abusers to seek treatment as a condition of receiving benefit.

In our Welfare Reform Green Paper "No-one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility" (column 7363) we announced that we will explore the case for introducing a new regime for problem drug users which provides more tailored and personalised support than is currently provided by the existing incapacity benefit or jobseeker's allowance regimes. In return for benefit payments, claimants will have a responsibility to move successfully through treatment and into employment.

Currently people with a drug addiction have access to support through the "progress2work" initiative which is a national programme for those on any working-age benefit recovering from drugs misuse. Participants are helped with the range of their problems, such as debt, housing or family breakdown. For alcohol misusers we offer "progress2work linkup" in about half of Jobcentre Plus districts.

Jobseekers Allowance: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any children under the age of 16 years received jobseeker's allowance payments in each year since 1997. [221688]

Mr. Plaskitt: No. Children under the age of 16 are not entitled to receive jobseeker's allowance in their own right.

Motability: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget for the Motability scheme was in each year since 1997. [224090]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Motability is an independent charitable company which is responsible for the Motability scheme. The Government do not provide any direct funding to the scheme.

Motability also administers the Specialised Vehicles Fund on behalf of the Government. This provides grants towards the cost of specially adapted vehicles for

disabled people. My Department will contribute £19.996 million this year towards the cost of adaptations and administration costs.

Motability: Fraud

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many cases of fraud or misuse of the Motability scheme *(a)* were recorded and *(b)* led to cancellation of car hire contracts in each year since 1997; [224089]

(2) how many people used the Motability scheme in each year since 1997. [224091]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Motability is an independent charitable company and is responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme.

The information in the following table has been provided by Motability.

	Number of customers using the scheme	*Allegations of fraud or misuse recorded and investigated*	*Contracts cancelled as a result of fraud or misuse*
1997	341,222	Not available	Not available
1998	359,289	Not available	Not available
1999	378,036	4,032	378
2000	388,761	2,107	253
2001	396,580	3,652	260
2002	398,744	3,728	249
2003	391,356	3,236	266
2004	391,548	2,896	140
2005	414,082	3,716	36
2006	438,290	2,704	197
2007	463,812	3,665	549
2008 (forecast)	490,000	3,750	550

Notes:

1. Consistent and reliable records of the numbers of cases of possible fraud or misuse being recorded and investigated, and of the resulting numbers of customer contracts cancelled, are only available from 1999 onwards, after Motability established a centralised team to handle such matters in 1998.
2. The fall in the number of contracts cancelled as a result of misuse between 2003 and 2005 resulted from an increase in the standard mileage allowance in 2003 (hence fewer customer contracts being cancelled for unpaid excess mileage bills) and from an improved approach to "fair wear and tear" standards, especially for damage associated with mobility aids (fewer contracts being cancelled for cars falling outside of the condition standards).
3. The increase in customer contracts being cancelled since 2005 has resulted from a stronger focus on appropriate sanctions for customers using cars in any criminal activity or using cars outside of the insurance rules (e.g. allowing uninsured drivers).

Pathways to Work

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 733W, on employment and support allowance, how many benefit recipients have found work following participation in Pathways to Work; what the average expenditure under the programme per job for each such participant has been since inception; and what forecast he has made of the number of people expected to find work as a result of planned spending on Pathways to Work for each of the next three years. [216776]

Mr. Timms: At the end of April 2007, 94,230 individuals were recorded as having participated in Pathways to Work and subsequently entering work. This number relates to job entries from both mandatory and voluntary customers. The historical cost per job in Pathways to Work is around £2,500.

Planned spending is £300 million in 2008-09, £390 million in 2009-10 and £400 million in 2010-11. Figures provided, particularly for 2009-10 and 2010-11, are indicative allocations based on current assumptions and are subject to change.

We do not formally forecast Pathways jobs, which depend on a range of factors including macroeconomic conditions and other policy changes.

Pension Credit

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners eligible for the savings pension credit who have not claimed their entitlement. [222522]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Latest estimates of the take-up rates, the number of pensioners who were entitled to but not claiming pension credit and the amount of pension credit unclaimed in Great Britain were published in the "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07" report. A copy of this report is available in the Library.

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Cleethorpes constituency received pension credit in each year since 2003. [222786]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is in the following table.

Number of households recipients and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency

November	*Household recipients*	*Individual beneficiaries*
2007	5,100	6,450
2006	5,090	6,490
2005	5,060	6,410
2004	4,900	6,180
2003	3,910	4,850

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data

Pensioners: Council Tax

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 188W, on pensioners: council tax, how many pensioners living in poverty were liable to pay council tax at the full rate in 1997. [222971]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pensions: Councillors

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether, under the terms of personal accounts, local authorities will be required to contribute to councillors' pensions in those areas which do not offer access to the Local Government Pension Scheme and in those cases where the councillor has not opted out of the scheme. [222988]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As elected officials rather than employees of a local authority, councillors will not fall within the definition of worker that underpins the definition of jobholder. Councillors will therefore be beyond the scope of the forthcoming workplace pension reform.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a person who has a bank account is permitted to open a Post Office card account; and if he will make a statement. [223743]

Mr. Plaskitt: Yes, they are.

Remploy

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements have been made for the continued employment of the Remploy workers whose work contracts at the Wirral Unilever plant have been lost; and if he will make a statement. [224474]

James Purnell: 31 employees have lost their contracts at Wirral Unilever. All employees will be offered help and support to find alternative employment through Remploy's Employment Services. Information about the outcomes of the employees is in the table.

Remploy Wirral Unilever workers outcomes

Number of workers	*Outcome*
25	Applied for Voluntary Redundancy. Will have support from Remploy Employment Services in finding alternative employment if they wish to.
1	On Annual Leave (it is believed the employee wants to take Voluntary Redundancy)
1	Transferred to a position with Remploy Employment Services
1	Returning to Remploy Birkenhead factory
3	Supported by Employment Services to find alternative employment. Will conduct intensive job searching activity over the next three months.

Source:
Remploy.

Schools

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of any materials his Department has distributed to schools in the last three years. [222551]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has not distributed any materials to schools during the last three years.

The DWP primarily delivers benefits and services to citizens of working age and of state pension age. While we do have early school leavers of 16 and 17 years who may be eligible for social security benefits, these individuals approach the Department direct.

Sick Pay

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the efficacy of penalties which HM Revenue and Customs can impose on employers who do not co-operate over the payment of statutory sick pay; and what further measures are planned to secure prompt employer compliance. [224297]

Mrs. McGuire: The penalties which can be imposed on an employer for refusing or repeatedly refusing to pay statutory sick pay are up to a maximum of £3,000. The maximum weekly amount of statutory sick pay payable is £75.40; the maximum period for which this amount is payable is 28 weeks leading to a total maximum payment of just over £2,100. The level of penalties is therefore reasonable and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has no plans to revise them.

HMRC staff now refer to penalties in correspondence and phone calls relating to disputes where appropriate. Early indications are this prompts employers to respond to requests for information.

This Department and HMRC are jointly developing plans to co-ordinate better HMRC enforcement activities to encourage employer compliance with statutory sick pay processes.

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken is following the date of the original claim, for statutory sick pay to be paid to claimants; and what steps are being taken to reduce this time. [224298]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the average time it takes employers to pay statutory sick pay is not available.

Employers are responsible for the payment and administration of statutory sick pay. They are required to pay their employee statutory sick pay at the same time as they would have paid wages for the same period. Employers are advised that delays in paying statutory sick pay may cause their employee financial difficulty.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), which has operational responsibility for statutory sick pay, carries out regular compliance checks.

This Department and HMRC work together to improve the service offered to both employees and employers across all aspects of statutory sick pay, including the disputes process.

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether compensation is paid to claimants who have to wait six months or more for their statutory sick pay. [224299]

Mrs. McGuire: The payment and administration of statutory sick pay are the responsibility of employers. There is no provision in statutory sick pay legislation for compensation to be paid by an employer to an employee for late payments. Any compensation for non-payment within a specific timescale is therefore a matter between the employer and their employee.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) handles disputes between employers and employees in relation to entitlement to statutory sick pay and may in some exceptional circumstances take on responsibility for paying Statutory Sick Pay in the case of defaulting employers or where employers are insolvent.

Where there is an unreasonable delay in a payment by HMRC of statutory sick pay, an ex gratia payment may be considered under the provisions of the HMRC complaints policy. There is no automatic right to such payments.

Sight Impaired: Disability Living Allowance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely effects on the number of claimants of changing the criteria for partially and severely sight impaired people to claim the highest benefit band of the disability living allowance. [223549]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance may be paid to people who are unable or virtually unable to walk. At the end of February 2008 there were 1,723,150 people in receipt of the higher rate mobility component, 4,640 of whose main disabling condition is recorded as blindness.

If the entitlement conditions for the higher rate mobility component were amended to include all partially and severely sight impaired people we could expect the numbers in receipt of that component to increase by just over 60,000 to around 1,783,250. Most of those who would be newly entitled to the higher rate would be people who receive the lower rate mobility component at the moment.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are claiming disability living allowance for *(a)* partial and *(b)* severe sight impairment in (i) Wakefield district, (ii) Hemsworth constituency and (iii) nationally. [223550]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance: main disabling condition of blindness

	Cases in payment: February 2008
Wakefield metropolitan district council	420
Hemsworth parliamentary constituency	110
Great Britain	64,730

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Where the claimant is eligible for both care and mobility components, the disabling condition associated with the mobility component is shown here. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes/
5. Partial and severe sight impairment cannot be separated individually.
6. These figures are published at www.nomisweb.com.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Fund: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget allocation for *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* community care grants and *(c)* budgeting loans was for each Jobcentre Plus office administering such schemes in each year since April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [216049]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information broken down by Jobcentre Plus budget area is in the tables.

Loans Budgets for Jobcentre Plus budget areas

	2006-07[1]	*2007-08*[1]
East of England		
Essex	£14,923,029	£13,412,523
Norwich Benefit Delivery Centre	£28,069,475	£25,753,252
East Midlands		
East Midlands North	£19,342,193	£18,277,376
South East Midlands	£22,621,886	£20,739,261
London		
Central and East London	£25,269,947	£21,708,685
London South	£38,383,269	£32,853,209
North and North East London	£22,857,023	£21,206,623
West London	£15,709,849	£13,354,462
North East		
Northumbria	£16,929,699	£15,815,463
South Tyneside and Wear Valley	£16,925,575	£17,125,954
Tees Valley	£14,440,674	£13,813,267
North West		
Chorlton Benefit Delivery Centre	£66,904,699	£62,929,808
Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	£47,375,823	£42,824,560
Scotland		
Inverness Benefit Delivery Centre	£25,681,880	£23,338,906

Loans Budgets for Jobcentre Plus budget areas

	2006-07[1]	2007-08[1]
Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre	£59,164,971	£55,274,217
South East		
Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey	£15,231,730	£15,426,221
Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent and Sussex	£38,335,562	£38,065,260
South West		
South West Central	£37,929,724	£33,884,729
Wales		
Llanelli Benefit Delivery Centre	£11,439,723	£11,672,162
South East Wales	£30,522,165	£27,304,760
West Midlands		
West Midlands Social Fund	£66,336,387	£59,234,565
Yorkshire and Humberside		
Bradford	£18,025,465	£16,285,137
Sheffield	£47,579,252	£41,699,600

[1] Loans budgets for Jobcentre Plus districts (now budget areas) are therefore given only for the final reallocation or in year allocation in the 2006/07 and 2007/08 financial years. These figures do not include some end of year adjustments to ensure no budgets were overspent. These adjustments were made possible because of underspends elsewhere.

Community care grant budgets for Jobcentre Plus budget areas for 2007-08

	£
East of England	
Essex	2,347,144
Norwich Benefit Delivery Centre	6,083,490
East Midlands	
East Midlands North	3,690,502
South East Midlands	5,027,738
London	
Central and East London	7,177,466
London South	8,985,071
North and North East London	4,314,406
West London	3,660,504
North East	
Northumbria	2,627,314
South Tyneside and Wear Valley	2,622,220
Tees Valley	2,456,473
North West	
Chorlton Benefit Delivery Centre	12,402,721
Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	8,141,316
Scotland	
Inverness Benefit Delivery Centre	5,743,635
Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre	15,605,303
South East	
Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey	2,630,592
Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent and Sussex	5,865,720
South West	
South West Central	8,060,436
Wales	
Llanelli Benefit Delivery Centre	2,555,656
South East Wales	5,616,541
West Midlands	
West Midlands Social Fund	13,207,411

Community care grant budgets for Jobcentre Plus budget areas for 2007-08

	£
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Bradford	3,200,914
Sheffield	8,977,427

Notes:

1. There are not separate budgets for crisis loans and budgeting loans, but rather a combined loans budget for both. The loans budget is managed centrally and re-allocations are made to Jobcentre Plus budget areas quarterly and towards the end of the year. Funds are taken from some of those budget areas with a projected end of year underspend and given to other budget areas.
2. To provide comparable data, budgets are presented on the basis of the current budget area structure. In recent years, there have been many changes to the boundaries of Jobcentre Plus districts, which have led to adjustment of the budgets for the districts involved. In some cases, a district has been split and the parts merged with other districts. For the districts involved in such a situation it is not possible to give comparable budgets from April 2003. The last split took place in August 2006.
3. Community Care Grants for 2006-07 were set before the boundary change in August 2006 involving a split district, and so are not given here. Community Care Grants budgets are not reallocated during the year. However, some allocations were made from the Contingency Reserve in 2007-08. These have not been included. The budgets for 2008-09 are the same as for 2007-08.

Source:

Departmental records of budgets.

Social Security Benefits: National Insurance Contributions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people whose national insurance contributions have been paid through the benefits system for more than 20 years of their working lives; and if he will make a statement. [223302]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The requested information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Pensioners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples claiming disability living allowance were also claiming (i) council tax benefit, (ii) housing benefit and (iii) pension credits in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [21656]]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the form requested.

South East

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on services, broken down by type in *(a)* Dartford Borough, *(b)* Kent Thameside, *(c)* the Thames Gateway, *(d)* Kent County Council area and *(e)* the South East region in each of the last five years. [222452]

Mr. Timms: Information on expenditure in the South East region is published annually in the DWP departmental report, while expenditure on housing and council tax benefits is published at a local authority level on the

Department's website. The remainder of the requested information could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222166]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work. A stress management framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards, is available to all employees and gives easy to use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

In addition, DWP has an employee assistance programme, which is designed to offer individual staff and managers a confidential advice and support service on a wide range of issues, including work related stress. This service is available to all employees any time of day or night.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223036]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department's expenditure on taxis in the last financial year (2007-08) was £2,024,431. This figure includes expenditure on minicab/taxi firms and black cabs. Details of the separate payments made by the Department and its agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer question 169293, tabled on 26 November 2007, on employment rates. [222339]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1180W.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Leader of the House what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in her Office were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223064]

Chris Bryant: No disciplinary action has been taken against any staff in the Leader's Office in the last 12 months.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in each pay grade in her Department in each of the last 12 months; [221239]

(2) what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in her Office was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221290]

Chris Bryant: The number of hours and cost of overtime payment paid to staff in the office of the Leader of the House of Commons, broken down by pay grade, is given as follows:

Month	*Grade*	*Hours worked*	*£*
October 2007	C	13	174.63
	B1	40	662.89
	B2	46	521.01
November 2007	C	266	3,450.61
	B1	93	1,883.89
	B2	101	1,030.77
	A (Grade 7)	61	915.00
December 2007	C	296	3,794.37
	B (Faststream)	68	803.94
	B1	88	1,888.34
	B2	80	629.70
	A (Grade 7)	40	603.75
January 2008	C	177	2,265.59
	B1	57	1,430.18
	A (Grade 7)	20	300.00
February 2008	C	244	3,109.15
	B (Faststream)	68	806.91
	B1	104	2,164.97
	B2	42	633.46
	A (Grade 7)	42	630.00
March 2008	C	201	2,573.64
	B (Faststream)	58	678.87
	B1	68	1,413.42
	B2	47	318.60
	A (Grade 7)	39	581.25

Notes:
No claims for overtime were made during August 2007 and September 2007. Figures for the months of April 2008, May 2008 and June 2008 are not unavailable at this time as they have not yet been audited.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Leader of the House how much her Office spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223035]

Chris Bryant: The Leader of the House of Commons' Office has spent £3,233.69 on taxis in the last financial year (2007-08).

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

5th Avenue Partners

Mr. Hands: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission when the Electoral Commission expects to complete its investigation of 5th Avenue Partners; and if he will make a statement. [221861]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the position remains as stated in the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 748W.

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 901W, on departmental buildings, whether the Electoral Commission's landlord is a public sector body. [222219]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the landlord of its London offices is a public sector body.

Fines

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission on how many occasions the Electoral Commission has imposed a fine in each year since its inception. [222969]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it imposed no fines from 2001 to 2006, in line with its policy of encouraging political parties to develop the necessary procedures and expertise to comply with their legal obligations under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

In January 2007 the Commission put parties on notice that penalties would increasingly be imposed where there was the power to do so. Since then, 154 fines were imposed in 2007 and a further 94 in the period 1 January to 30 September 2008.

Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent assessment the Commission has made of *(a)* the appropriateness of the criminal offences established by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and *(b)* the merits of replacing those offences with a range of civil penalties. [222954]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that in July 2008 it published a paper titled "Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom: the Government's proposals—The Electoral Commission's response", a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House. In that document the Commission reiterated its view that the introduction of a wider range of civil sanctions should complement rather than replace the existing criminal penalties regime in respect of offences under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

The Commission further informs me that it strongly supports the detailed proposals for civil sanctions which have since been set out in the Political Parties and Elections Bill. The Commission believes that the proposed regime will enable the Commission to regulate in a proportionate way in accordance with the Hampton principles of good regulatory practice.

Political Parties: Finance

Martin Linton: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many letters of reprimand the Electoral Commission issued to regulated donees in each year from 2001 to 2007; how many such letters it has issued in 2008 to date; and how many of those related to late declarations in each such year. [221888]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that no letters of reprimand were issued to regulated donees for late reporting between 2001 and 2007. During this period, the Commission focused on providing guidance and advice. The Commission began to issue letters of reprimand to regulated donees in February 2008 and has issued 150 such letters for late reporting of donations up to 30 September 2008.

James Duddridge: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the Ministerial Correction of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 8MC, on political parties: finance, who took the operational decision to destroy the hard copy records; and for what reasons. [222220]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that in July 2005 the then Director of Regulatory Services ordered the destruction of hard copy records on the grounds that there was no current or future business need for them and they did not hold any historical value for the National Archives.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission for what reasons the Commission has not published a list of regulated donees who have reported political donations *(a)* late and *(b)* on time since 2001. [222955]

Sir Peter Viggers: Schedule 7 to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) requires all regulated donees to report all donations to the Commission within 30 days of accepting them if the value of the donation is above certain thresholds. The Electoral Commission informs me that between 2001 and 2007, the Commission's primary focus was on encouraging registered parties and regulated donees to comply with their statutory requirements. During that period, no record was kept of whether donations to regulated donees were reported late or on time.

The Commission now considers that parties and regulated donees have had sufficient time to acclimatise to the obligations placed upon them by the regulatory framework. Since 1 January 2008 all cases of late reporting have been identified and details have been published on the Commission's website.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 825W, on political parties: finances, *(a)* what and *(b)* how many documents the Electoral Commission has destroyed; how many of them were original regulated donee completed return forms; whether the information on these completed forms has been retained by the Commission; and what the reasons for the destruction were. [223082]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that in July 2005 the then Director of Regulatory Services ordered the destruction of certain hard copy records on the grounds that there was no current or future business need for them and they did not hold any historical value for the National Archives.

The paper files destroyed comprised: by-election expenses, party campaign expenditure, policy development grants records, donation returns for all candidates and parties during the years 2001 to 2003, and statements of accounts for all parties and accounting units for the years 2001-02.

The Commission further informs me that it does not hold information as to the exact number of documents destroyed or how many were original regulated donee forms. All information in these documents which the Commission is required to publish on its registers was retained and is available on its website at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the Electoral Commission's consultation paper on Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units, whether the Commission proposes that a compliance grant will be provided to political parties in the same manner as a PPERA compliance grant was provided. [223739]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has not proposed that a compliance grant be provided for political parties. The Commission informs me that whilst parties may have to bear some costs, these are expected to be modest and offset by the benefits as indicated in the consultation paper. The Commission will publish guidance and provide training for all parties in time for the preparation of the 2009 statements of accounts.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the Electoral Commission's consultation paper on Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units, what plans the Commission has to undertake audits of local accounting units; and whether the Commission proposes that the audits will be paid for by the Commission or the local party. [223740]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that under section 43 and schedule 5 of PPERA, registered parties and accounting units are required to have their accounts audited if:

their income or expenditure in any financial year exceeds £250,000, or

their income or expenditure is lower than this but the Commission directs that their accounts should be audited.

Where a party or accounting unit does not carry out such an audit within the statutory time limits, the Electoral Commission may appoint an auditor and may recover the auditor's expenses including remuneration.

The Electoral Commission further informs me that it is currently developing an audit strategy which will include audits by the Commission of the accounts of registered parties and local accounting units whose income or expenditure in a financial year is lower than £250,000 where a risk assessment indicates that this is appropriate. The Commission is not proposing to recoup the costs of such audits.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the Electoral Commission's consultation paper on Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units, how many pages long the Commission estimates the supporting manual for local accounting units will be. [223741]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is not yet in a position to estimate the length of the guidance manual. The Commission will develop the guidance in discussion with party treasurers to ensure that it is as comprehensive and user-friendly as possible.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what role the Ministry of Justice played in the preparation of the Electoral Commission's consultation paper on Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units. [223742]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the Ministry of Justice played no role in the preparation of the consultation paper 'Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units'.

John Bercow: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what criteria the Commission uses when deciding whether to refer to the police cases of regulated donees notifying it of late donations. [223903]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the position remains as stated in the answer I gave the hon. Member for Leeds, North-East (Mr. Hamilton) on 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 349W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the Electoral Commission's consultation paper on Standardising Statements of

Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units, what the timetable is for the publication of the draft guidance and draft regulations; and whether the Commission will consult separately on the draft regulations and guidance. [224320]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it will confirm the nature of any proposed new regulations, and the associated timetable for the publication of draft regulations and guidance, in the light of the public consultation which ended on 3 October 2008. If the Commission decides to proceed with the proposals set out in the consultation paper, it proposes to consult on the draft regulations and guidance with registered political parties and other stakeholders in November.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the Electoral Commission's consultation paper on Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units, what the *(a)* estimated compliance costs to political parties and *(b)* the estimated cost to public funds in terms of (i) set-up costs and (ii) ongoing regulatory costs of the proposals are. [224322]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has not quantified the estimated costs to political parties, but that it has set out its assumptions on the level of the costs and benefits in the draft impact assessment contained within the consultation paper 'Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units'. A copy of the Commission's consultation paper has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The Commission has invited views on the draft impact assessment as part of its consultation, and will review any comments it receives and reflect any changes in the final impact assessment.

The Commission informs me that it estimates the set-up costs to public funds of implementing the proposals at approximately £90,000 and that it has allocated funds from its existing budget to cover these costs. The Commission does not expect implementation of the proposals to result in any significant additional ongoing cost to public funds.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the Electoral Commission's consultation paper on Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units, whether local accounting units will be obliged to report in their accounts donations in kind from their national political party. [224323]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that its consultation paper proposes that accounting units in receipt of transfers from the central party should show these in their statements of accounts as income (paragraph 4.9), and that gifts including gifts of services should be reported as income (paragraph 4.7). The Commission will consider the responses to these and its other proposals when considering the way forward.

A copy of the Commission's consultation paper, 'Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units' has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the Electoral Commission's consultation paper on Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units, whether a full impact assessment for the proposals will be undertaken in line with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's Impact Assessment Guidance, including a small firm's impact assessment. [224324]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is committed to imposing the minimum necessary administrative burden on regulated bodies, in accordance with the principles of good regulation. The Commission's consultation paper included a draft impact assessment and invited views on its analysis. The Commission informs me that it will publish a final impact assessment after considering the consultation responses. The final assessment will include consideration of the issues covered by the Small Firms Impact Test where appropriate.

A copy of the Commission's consultation paper, 'Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units' has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Powers

John Bercow: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what systems are in place to regulate the Electoral Commission's use of its powers. [223876]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that use of its powers is subject to judicial review.

Representation of the People Act 1983

Mrs. Lait: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Commission has taken to prepare guidance on matters falling within Schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006. [223068]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it publishes guidance for candidates and agents in advance of each election, including guidance on matters falling within schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983. These guidance documents are not formal codes of practice of the kind described in paragraph 14 of Schedule 4A.

Copies of the guidance published for candidates and agents in the 2008 English local government and Greater London Authority elections have been placed in the Library of the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul flights. [222141]

Mr. Woodward: The figures requested, which are expressed in kilometres, are shown in the following tables.

2006-07

	Km
Short haul	3,624,659.72
Long haul	279,077
Total	3,903,736.72

2007-08[1]

	Km
Domestic	3,207,504
Short haul	97,462.96
Long haul	258,625.57
Total	3,563,592.53

[1] For 2007-08 an additional category for domestic flights was added.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether those staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [222147]

Mr. Woodward: Official travel for the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies is arranged in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code and departmental travel policy. Staff do not benefit in monetary terms or kind from the savings of travelling in a cheaper class.

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222140]

Mr. Woodward: Details of the offices newly occupied and refurbished in the last 24 months by my Department are as follows:

	Square metres
Lisburn Chambers, Linenhall Street, Lisburn, County Antrim	2,493
Linum Chambers, Bedford Square, Bedford Street, Belfast	2,802
Ballymena Chambers, Parkway, Ballymena, County Antrim	2,494
Omagh Chambers, 2 Townhall Square, Omagh, County Tyrone	2,265
Foyle Chambers, 35 Limavady Road, Londonderry, County Londonderry	2,364

No agency properties were newly occupied and refurbished in the last 24 months.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223066]

Paul Goggins: The details of the five most serious breaches cannot be released because to do so might identify the individuals concerned.

The disciplinary offences the Department has dealt with in the past 12 months fall into three broad categories: fraud, email abuse and bad time-keeping.

The Northern Ireland Office takes any breach of discipline seriously and within the last 12 months five civil servants have been dismissed for serious disciplinary offences. When the circumstances of a disciplinary offence have not merited dismissal, individuals have been issued with a written warning. A written warning has a two-year life span during which the individual concerned has restrictions placed on them which include:

not being considered for promotion;

not being considered for temporary promotion opportunities that may arise;

considered not to have satisfactory service if a departmental reference is requested.

The Civil Service Code and the Northern Ireland Office staff handbooks set out the standards of behaviour expected of all staff employed in the Department.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what types of data have been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222148]

Mr. Woodward: In the last 12 months, no data have been sold by the Northern Ireland Office or its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222146]

Mr. Woodward: Where, for business reasons, staff are required by the Department to work away from their appointed office and commuting is not practical they are provided with accommodation. The total is as follows: London 18, Belfast four, Dundonald one, Holywood one and Helens Bay three. The standard provision is a flat but there are three houses in Northern Ireland. The properties are occupied by staff at all grades.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222144]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) would be able to provide the information requested only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222145]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office and its agencies have made no payments to any of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework during the last 36 months.

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [222139]

Paul Goggins: Figures on public authority use of covert techniques controlled by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') are published annually by the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner who each have particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the House Library on 22 July.

The figures provided in the reports are not broken down by individual public authority use of specific covert technique as, depending on the particular technique and authority using it, this could either reveal sensitivities or be misleading. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant Commissioner.

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or the administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222275]

Paul Goggins: This Government are firmly committed to the importance of the EU in delivering on 21st century challenges. The EU is of central importance to the work of HM Government across all Departments. It is relevant to a wide range of policy areas, and to the work of many Government officials. As such, the specific information requested is not held centrally, and to provide it would involve disproportionate costs.

Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much fish was procured by his Department and at what cost in each of the last five years, broken down by species; and what amount and value of such fish met the Marine Stewardship Council standard in each such year, broken down by species. [217889]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office does not keep a record of the amount of expenditure on fish, the species purchased or whether it met the Marine Stewardship Council standard. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215112]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office and its agencies have a total of 14 staff classified as Government communicators. Of these staff, 11 have access to the Government Communications Network.

[illegible]mpic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time equivalent members of staff of his Department are working on policy relating to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games. [221873]

Mr. Woodward: No members of staff in the Northern Ireland Office are working on policy relating to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics games.

Royal Ulster Constabulary: Reserve Forces

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans his Department has to recognise the service of the Royal Ulster Constabulary part-time Reserve; and if he will make a statement. [222907]

Mr. Woodward: The Royal Ulster Constabulary Part Time Reserve is already recognised by:

(i) the award of a long service medal after 15 years service;

(ii) payment of an Northern Ireland allowance (on a pro rata basis); and

(iii) a stakeholder pension scheme (since 2001).

Royal Ulster Constabulary: Special Branch

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many former RUC Special Branch officers *(a)* took early retirement and *(b)* transferred to other police forces in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [223707]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following figures for the number of officers leaving Intelligence Branch:

	Retired	*Transferred to other police forces*
2007	47	0
2008	23	0

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222186]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has in place policies on the prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

The office also runs regular events to promote health and well-being.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223037]

Mr. Woodward: *(a)* During 2007-08, the Northern Ireland Office's (NIO) expenditure on invoiced taxi fares was £42,455. Taxi fares were also claimed by employees as reimbursable expenses but these costs can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(b) The invoiced expenditure on taxi fares for the NIO's agencies during 2007-08 are shown in the following table:

Agency	*Amount (£)*
Northern Ireland Prison Service	1,433
Forensic Science Northern Ireland	1,796
Youth Justice Agency	25,589
Compensation Agency	1,167
Total	29,985

Further taxi fares were claimed by employees as reimbursable expenses but these costs can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Service: Codes of Practice

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many complaints were made by civil servants alleging breaches of the Civil Service code in each of the last 10 years. [222611]

Mr. Watson: Information on complaints received within Departments is not collected centrally.

The Civil Service Commissioners report on the number of appeals they have handled each year in their annual report. Copies of the Commissioners' annual reports for the period 1997-98 to 2007-08 are available in the Library and can also be obtained online at

www.civilservicecommissioners.org.

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [221990]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office makes no direct use of MOSAIC or ACORN data.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the five most serious disciplinary breaches have been in his Department in the last 12 months; and what action was taken to correct the breach in each case; [222560]

(2) what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in the Prime Minister's Office were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223050]

Mr. Watson: There have been four cases where disciplinary charges have been proven in the Cabinet Office, which includes the Prime Minister's Office, within the last 12 months. To protect the privacy of individuals, and in accordance with statistical conventions, details have not been provided.

Where charges of misconduct have been proven, Cabinet Office employees are penalised in line with the Cabinet Office disciplinary policy. Penalties for serious or gross misconduct might include one or more of the following:

Formal written warning;

Downgrading;

Withdrawal or withholding of pay award and/or bonus awards;

Ban on promotion;

Loss of security clearance;

Removal from post attracting additional pay or allowances;

Suspension with no pay;

Dismissal.'

If a breach has occurred because of management failure or a weakness in policies or practice, a review is carried out and appropriate remedial action taken.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1625W, on departmental retirement, how many requests to work beyond the standard retirement age were received by his Department in each of the last five years. [222432]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) on 25 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 488W.

Employment: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time jobs there were in (i) Cleethorpes constituency, (ii) North East Lincolnshire and (iii) North Lincolnshire in each year since 1997. [222784]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time jobs there were in (i) Cleethorpes constituency, (ii) North East Lincolnshire and (iii) North Lincolnshire in each year since 1997. (222784)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is the preferred source for estimates at the detailed level requested although the estimates refer to the number of people in employment rather than the number of jobs.

The attached table provides estimates of the number of people aged 16 and over, in full and part-time employment, resident in Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Number of people, aged 16 and over, in full and part time[1] employment, resident in Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency[2], North East Lincolnshire[3] and the North Lincolnshire[3], 1998 - 2007.

Thousand

	Cleethorpes[2]			*North East Lincolnshire[3]*			*North Lincolnshire[3]*		
	Full time	*Part time*	*Total*	*Full time*	*Part time*	*Total*	*Full time*	*Part time*	*Total*
February 1998[4]	28	10	38	47	18	65	53	20	73
February 1999[4]	25	11	37	44	18	62	52	19	71
February 2000[4]	29	10	39	49	16	65	51	18	69
February 2001[4]	33	13	45	51	20	70	53	18	71
February 2002[4]	32	11	43	52	19	71	53	18	72
February 2003[4]	32	12	43	51	20	72	53	19	72
February 2004[4]	29	12	41	55	21	77	53	19	72
March 2005[5]	29	12	42	49	21	70	55	20	75
March 2006[5]	30	12	42	50	19	70	54	21	75
March 2007[5]	28	12	41	52	21	73	54	22	76

[1] Includes those full-time and part-time on New Deal.
[2] 1995 parliamentary constituency boundary to February 2004,2005 parliamentary constituency boundary revision thereafter.
[3] Local Authority District.
[4] Based on annual Labour Force Survey (LFS).
[5] Based on Annual Population Survey (APS).
Notes:
1. As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.
2. Due to rounding the totals may not sum.
3. Figures are based on the most recent population estimates published in 2007.
Source:
ONS Annual Population Survey and annual Labour Force Survey

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222276]

Mr. Watson: Staff in the European and Global Issues Secretariat work to co-ordinate the collective agreement of the Government's international economic and European policy. This includes negotiation, implementation and administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. At 31 March 2008 the Secretariat had 31 staff working in this context.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 498W, on local government finance, what assumptions about *(a)* local authority housebuilding rates and *(b)* the rate of net migration have been made in individual local authority projections for (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [222642]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about what assumptions about *(a)* local authority house-building rates and *(b)* the rate of net migration have been made

in individual local authority projections for (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 498W, on local government finance. [222642]

The subnational population projections are based on observed demographic trends. They provide the population levels and structure that would result if the recent trends in fertility, mortality and migration levels continue. No specific account is taken of house-building except as it may have already contributed to past population growth which feeds into the population projections.

The projections used in current local government finance settlements are the 2004-based revised sub-national population projections. On this basis, the net-migration estimates for 2008 and 2009 (but not 2010) are available on the ONS website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/2004_BasedProj_Revised/18_Migration summaries_LAs.xls.

In June this year ONS published 2006-based projections, and the net-migration estimates for 2010 are available from this set of projections. However, these estimates were not available at the time of the local government finance settlements.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: By-elections

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in what circumstances *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* civil servants may be seconded to work on by-election campaigns for a political party; and if he will make a statement. [220067]

Edward Miliband: The rules relating to the involvement of special advisers and other civil servants in political activities are set out in the Civil Service Management Code and the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. The rules do not provide for special advisers or other civil servants to be seconded to a political party to work on a by-election campaign.

Prime Minister

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what expenditure is made from the public purse for work related to the Prime Minister's personal appearance. [222214]

Mr. Watson: None.

Prime Minister: Pensions

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the pension arrangements in place for the Prime Minister's Chief of Strategy and Principal Adviser. [222599]

Mr. Watson: The pension arrangements for special advisers are set out in the 'Model Contract for Special Advisers'.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1165W, on Afghanistan: overseas aid, how much private sector investment he estimates will be committed to the Afghanistan Investment Climate Facility in the next 12 months. [223680]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In the next 12 months the Department for International Development (DFID) expects private sector investors to commit approximately US $250,000 to the Afghanistan Investment Climate Facility for its first year of operation.

There are very few multinational companies operating in Afghanistan and the private sector remains small and underdeveloped. This investment will be a significant contribution in a challenging business environment where corporate social responsibility is an unfamiliar concept.

Africa: Education

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1184W, on UNICEF Go To School campaign, (1) what programmes his Department is funding to encourage increases in school attendances in African nations other than Sudan in 2008-09; [223682]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1167-8W, on Africa: females, what steps his Department is taking to support access to education of girls and women in Africa in 2008-09. [223685]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development's (DFID) work in the education sector in Africa is guided by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which call for the achievement of universal primary education and for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. We plan to spend some £214 million bilaterally on education in Africa this year (2008-09). In addition, DFID provides core funding to a range of multilateral organisations who work to develop education in Africa. A large proportion of our bilateral support is routed through national budgets, notably in Nigeria, Ghana, Mozambique, Zambia, Kenya and Rwanda. This is in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness which calls for 50 per cent. of bilateral assistance to be channelled through country systems by means of long-term general budget or sector support. There is a particular emphasis throughout our education sector programmes on increasing school attendance, and a key part of this is getting more girls into school.

During the visit of President Sarkozy earlier this year, we agreed to work jointly with France to help get 16 million more children into school in Africa by 2010. We have also committed £150 million to the Education for All Fast Track Initiative for 2006-8 to help countries speed up the implementation of their education plans. The Fast Track Initiative is supporting education work in 18 Africa countries.

There is still a long way to go to achieve these MDGs in Africa, but there has been some worthwhile progress. Free primary education has brought millions of children into school: in Zambia and Tanzania, over 97 per cent. of children are now enrolled, with equal number of girls. In Lesotho, Rwanda, Uganda and Malawi gender parity rates have reached 98 per cent. or more. In Ethiopia, our support helped one million more children to enter school in 2006. In Malawi, providing better toilet facilities in schools and support to teenage mothers has improved school attendance by girls.

Our current work in the education sector across Africa is set out in the following table.

Project Title	*Country*	*Commitment (£000)*
Supporting improved delivery of Education	Burundi	6,000
Secondary School Access for Returning Refugees		1,020
Primary Education, North Sankuru (Catholic Relief Services)	Democratic Republic of Congo	400
Access to Primary Education		10,410
Education Innovatory Fund	Ethiopia	300
Pooled Operation Fund		995
Protection of Basic Services Secretariat		250
General Education quality improvement programme		150
Basic Education Support for Poverty Reduction	The Gambia	3,500
Support to Education Strategic Plan	Ghana	100,000
Support to Education Strategic Plan		5,000
Support to Kenya Education Sector Support Programme	Kenya	50,000
Support to Kenya Education Sector Development Programme		5,000
Malawi Poverty reduction Budget Support 2007-08	Malawi	22,000
Infrastructure Support		7,800
Education Sector Wide Approach Technical Assistance		750
Education Sector Support II	Mozambique	45,000
Education Sector Support		1,000
Niger: Support to Girls Education	Niger	7,105
Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria	Nigeria	105,910
Joint Education Sector Support Programme	Rwanda	13,000
10th Anniversary of Genocide - support to education		961
Capacity Building Technical Assistance for Joint Education Sector Support		300
Support to Teacher Census	Sierra Leone	750
Sierra Leone 10 year Education plan		15
Save the Children (UK): Education, Hiran	Somali Democratic Rep	1,408
UNESCO / UNICEF Agreement		6,000
Africa Education Trust: Formal Assessment and Certification on Somalia and Somaliland Project		1,000
UNICEF Emergency Education 2008		320
Scholarship Programme for Sudanese Students	Sudan	410
Training Scheme Phase II		1,400
Reflect Literacy Programme (GOAL)		421
UNICEF Southern Sudan Go-to-School		1,777
UNICEF Education Project Abyei		2,000
Research on Poverty Alleviation	Tanzania	900
Support to Hakielimu (NGO)		1,100
Education Sector Technical Assistance Support		180
Zambia Education Sector Wide Approach	Zambia	19,000
Education Expertise	SADC[1]	300
Mapping of Higher Education		240
Association of African Universities: Revitalising Education	Africa Regional	3,500
Association for Development of Education in Africa: Books Working Group		220
Financing for Development		100
African Virtual University Board Participation		25

[1] SADC: Southern Africa Development Coordination Committee

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1184W, on UNICEF Go To School campaign, by how much school attendance in Southern Sudan has increased since the programme's inception; and what the programme's targets for further increases in school attendances in 2008-09 are. [223683]

Gillian Merron: By the end of 2007, the Government of South Sudan and UNICEF's 'Go To School' campaign produced an increase in school enrolment to 1.3 million children up from 850,000 when the campaign began two and a half years ago. The Government of South Sudan and UNICEF aim to increase this figure to 1.6 million enrolled by the end of 2008, 1.9 million by the end of 2009, and 2.5 million by 2012.

In March 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) donated £1.2 million to purchase school materials in support of this important initiative.

Africa: EU Water Initiative

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1167W, on Africa: EU Water Initiative, what steps the EU Water Initiative Africa Working Group plans to take to improve coordination between donors, developing country governments and civil society organisations. [223686]

Gillian Merron: Improved co-ordination is a key aim of the EU Water Initiative Africa Working Group. The Group is an integral part of the EU Water Initiative's Multi-Stakeholder Forum. The composition of the Group also encourages co-ordination, through its rotating membership.

EU member states, the EC and other donors, such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank, participate in Africa Working Group key activities. Meetings are generally programmed as an integral part

of major events, such as the recent World Water Week in Stockholm. The membership of the Africa Working Group management "Troika" rotates on a yearly basis between EU member states. This arrangement promotes a wide range of active involvement in the Group. For example, the UK co-Chairs the Group this year with the African Ministers Council for Water representative from Congo-Brazzaville and next year Austria will co-Chair with a South African representative. Country governments are involved in the Africa Working Group activities. For example, Ethiopia is a leader in the Group's country dialogue process which develops a strategic planning and financing framework for the water sector. Civil society, such as the Women for Water Partnership and the African Water Network, participate in regular events such as Africa Working Group meetings and the Multi-Stakeholder Forum.

Co-ordination will also be improved through the new communications strategy which we have funded through our support to the Africa Working Group "Troika". This strategy takes a comprehensive longer-term look at the Group's requirement.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated to the African Community Access Programme in each year since its inception; what percentage of that funding was administrative costs in each year; what private sector contractors are delivering the programme; and what the value of each contract is. [220538]

Mr. Malik: The African Community Access Programme (AFCAP) has a total Department for International Development (DFID) budget of £7.5 million over five years. The Programme Management contract was awarded to Crown Agents through competitive tender with a financial limit of £1.222 million over the first three years. The Programme formally began only in June 2008 and no disbursements have yet been made. The Management's initial task of identifying transport research projects in six African countries has recently begun; once these have been designed in collaboration with participating governments, invitations to tender for their implementation will be issued, and specific project costs will become available.

Africa: Regional Trade Facilitation Programme

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1172W, on Africa: Regional Trade Facilitation Programme, how much export volumes have risen in total between 2005 and 2007 as a result of the programme. [223688]

Gillian Merron: The Regional Trade Facilitation Programme (RTFP) has been working at promoting trade through harmonisation of regional trade policy and trade facilitation. Through the RTFP there has been an increase of at least 1,278.4 metric tonnes between 2005 and 2007 on tea, coffee and nuts.

These can be broken down as follows:

	Metric Tonnes
Tea	600
Coffee	280
Mixed Nuts (including organic)	398.4

Africa: Rice

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has allocated to the Africa Rice Centre for its New Rice for Africa project in 2008-09; and what percentage of that expenditure is on administrative costs. [220539]

Mr. Thomas: This year the Department for International Development (DFID) will be making a grant of £500,000 for core funding to the African Rice Centre. It will not be earmarked. Depending upon the allocation of this grant by the centre to its different programmes some of this may be used to support the New Rice for Africa project. The percentage of the centre's overall expenditure of US$ 10,518,272 for 2007 spent on administrative costs was 24.7 per cent.

Africa: Trade

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1166W, on Africa: borders, what steps are being taken by his Department to facilitate trade across borders in parts of Africa other than southern Africa in 2008-09. [223687]

Gillian Merron: Outside Southern Africa, the Department for International Development's (DFID) work to facilitate cross-border trade is focused in East Africa (the East African Community (EAC)—Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi). DFID is preparing a major new regional programme to facilitate trade by EAC member states. It will focus on expanding intra-regional trade through reducing the costs of trading across borders by supporting one stop border posts, customs reforms and the development of revenue sharing arrangements between countries.

DFID has already been helping the Government of Uganda to implement its EAC commitments and has supported the East African Business Council to undertake a study of the EAC Customs Union implementation. This highlights the major reforms necessary to reduce the barriers to trade across East Africa. As a result of this work, a notable success is the 24 hour opening of Mombassa port to allow for more efficient processing of containers.

Climate Change: Natural Disasters

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in his Department's work. [222482]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development's (DFID) 2006 White Paper stated that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a crucial part of climate change adaptation. DFID's climate change implementation strategy incorporates DRR and recognises the need to draw on existing mechanisms to reduce risk when designing new programmes to adapt to climate change. The Bali Action Plan, which the UK signed up to last December, emphasises this when it refers to the importance of using

"disaster reduction strategies to address loss and damage associated with climate change".

DFID is developing an integrated DRR and adaptation mainstreaming programme to be rolled out across the Department over the next year. We are also developing joint risk and vulnerability assessments, beginning in five countries in South Asia, to provide staff with the tools and skills needed to assess climate and disaster risk when designing development programmes.

DFID has also commissioned a review to assess how DRR and adaptation programming could be better aligned to identify mechanisms for joint funding and programming; and to make recommendations for addressing remaining gaps in the system. This work is in progress, but initial recommendations include: supporting more visible engagement of the DRR community in climate negotiations; promoting stronger convergence of the DRR and adaptation teams within DFID and multilateral agencies; and supporting the generation of integrated knowledge and guidance, including by documenting success stories of where integration has worked.

Climate Change: Non-governmental Organisations

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that scientific information on climate change is available for non-governmental organisations to incorporate into their work with vulnerable communities. [222481]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working to ensure that adequate scientific information on climate change is available to all stakeholders working with vulnerable communities, including non-governmental organisations. Work we are currently supporting in this area includes:

The Climate Change Adaptation for Africa initiative (£24 million);

The Climate Information for Development Programme (ClimDev Africa);

Designing climate change adaptation programmes for the Latin American/Caribbean and Asian regions (up to £50 million);

A Chinese climate change adaptation programme, specifically aimed at improving science and information on climate change (£3 million from DFID and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs); and

DFID is also working to establish an international climate change centre or network to help address developing countries' knowledge and capacity gaps on climate change, as announced by the Secretary of State for International Development, at the Foreign Policy Centre on 6 February 2008.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Humanitarian Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recommendations for improving humanitarian response resulted from the field mission to Democratic Republic of Congo co-hosted by his Department; and how many such recommendations have been implemented. [224134]

Gillian Merron: Numerous field missions have come to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in the past year: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) donor Support Group, Pooled Fund Evaluation, Central Emergency Revolving Fund evaluation (CERF), and internal field missions undertaken by the in-country humanitarian team. Recommendations emanating from these missions include:

The need to strengthen the role of the Humanitarian Coordinator;

Better needs and gap identification;

Improved coordination between UN agencies and NGOs;

Donors to provide flexible, timely and unearmarked funding.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is at the forefront of humanitarian reform internationally and within DRC. In DRC, this has translated into the establishment of a common Humanitarian Pooled Fund in 2006 ($120 million from eight donors in 2008) to provide the Humanitarian Coordinator with funds to target critical needs; support for the design of the yearly DRC Humanitarian Action Plan that better defines need and strategic priorities and is more measurable; and support for the Cluster Lead Agency coordination system that brings NGOs and UN agencies together to determine priorities and strategy under a common framework. Although work remains to improve the humanitarian response, all above elements, with DFID support, are improving the timeliness, effectiveness and quality of humanitarian assistance provided in the DRC.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government Departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul flights. [222114]

Mr. Malik: Since the Government Carbon Offset Fund was established, the Department for International Development's (DFID) air mileage incurred through departmental travel was as follows:

kilometres

	2006-07	*2007-08*
Short haul	5,964,021	6,320,553
Long haul	72,475,244	67,851,587
Domestic	[1]—	3,932,618

[1] Domestic was not separately identified in 2006-07.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions his Department has instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220825]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Neither the Department for International Development nor the Treasury Solicitor keep central records and we have not been able to identify any cases to which the Secretary of State applied for leave to appeal to the House of Lords and was refused. We cannot, therefore, say whether there were any such cases and, if so, how many.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221093]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) is fully committed to the targets set out for sustainable operations on the Government estate. These include targets for carbon emissions from buildings and energy efficiency. It is not possible to directly compare their energy efficiency with five or 10 years ago, as we have both moved and expanded our offices over this period, and occupancy levels have increased as we have improved the effectiveness of the use of our estate, including closing our third office.

We are continuing to work towards the Government's long-term sustainable operations 2010 and 2020 targets, and will look to build on measures already taken such as changes to operational arrangements, more energy efficient equipment, and behavioural changes.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221591]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not provide free or discounted room hire for other organisations. We have no agencies which have property.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the location is of each office occupied by (a) his Department and (b) each of its agencies which has been *(i)* newly occupied and *(ii)* refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222127]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is as follows:

Country office	*Place*	*Classification*	*Completed*	*Square metres Total floor area*
DFID Pakistan	Islamabad	New build and refurbishment	May 2006	1,192
DFID Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	New build	September 2006	1,354
DFID Sudan	Khartoum	New build and refurbishment	November 2007	679
DFID Afghanistan	Kabul	New build	August 2006	725
DFID Uganda	Kampala	New build	December 2007	1,340
DFID Nigeria	Kano	Refurbishment	October 2006	153
DFID Nigeria	Abuja	Refurbishment	July 2008	1,532
DFID Indonesia	Jakarta	Refurbishment	July 2008	186.19

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what the *(a)* scheduled date and (b) title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each; [215183]

(2) if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211686]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate costs to answer.

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what use his Department makes of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [222111]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Department (DFID) and its agencies do not make direct use of MOSAIC or ACORN data.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223062]

Gillian Merron: The five most serious disciplinary breaches in the Department for International Development (DFID) in the last 12 months, and the response to each, are set out in the following table.

Each case was handled following DFID's Disciplinary Procedures. These procedures can be accessed by all staff through Peoplesight, which provides online guidance for staff on human resources policies and procedures as part of our intranet site.

Disciplinary breach	*Outcome*
Gross misconduct	Dismissal
Fraud	Dismissal
Fraud	Dismissal
Fraud	Dismissal
Misconduct	Written warning

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what types of data have been sold by his Department under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222113]

Mr. Malik: Core information produced by the Department for International Development (DFID) can be reused free of charge under the terms of the Public Sector Information (PSI) Click-Use Licence which is administered by the Office of Public Sector Information in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

DFID and its agencies have sold no data under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many permanent staff in his Department are classed as *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* part of a people action team. [215569]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) operates a market based internal posting system and sometimes has people between posts for short periods. Currently there are no permanent members of staff classed as surplus or part of a people action team.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on official entertainment in the UK in 2007-08; and what its expenditure on such entertainment is projected to be in 2008-09. [216318]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) total spend on entertainment within administration cost budgets for 2007-08 was £271,587. Projected expenditure for entertainment for 2008-09 is £253,007.

These figures include costs for working breakfasts and lunches, refreshments at meetings and official entertainment.

It is not possible to breakdown our costs to provide amounts spent in the UK only, without incurring a disproportionate cost.

All expenditure has been made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222112]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not provide residential accommodation for any staff in the United Kingdom.

Accommodation is provided for all staff posted overseas, irrespective of grade. Information is not retained centrally about the location of these properties, but as at the end of June the number of UK-based staff working overseas was 391.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in each of the last three financial years. [221175]

Gillian Merron: We are unable to provide this information on the grounds of disproportionate cost.

All reimbursable expenses are made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222115]

Mr. Malik: It is not possible to disaggregate information on organisations from our creditors' index without incurring a disproportionate cost. The names of companies that have major contracts with us are published on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The addresses of these companies are available from Companies House:

http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department treats underspend in each individual annual country budget; and if he will make a statement. [224475]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Expected underspends in individual annual country budgets are re-allocated to other programmes within the same financial year. If this is not possible, the underspends contribute to the Department's End of Year Flexibility entitlement.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* underspend and *(b)* overspend on country budgets in his Department was in each of the last five years, broken down by county. [224511]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The following table shows underspends and overspends against budget for country programmes for the financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Department for International Development—(over)/under spend against budgets for country programmes, 2003-04 to 2007-08

£000

	(Over)/under spend				
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Africa					
East and Central Africa					
Ethiopia	(10,395)	(6,746)	1,682	2,969	443
Tanzania	(2,319)	(6,052)	801	636	819
Sudan	9,345	859	(11,535)	(304)	(12,151)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	8,843	(8,458)	2,708	(15,803)	2,679
Uganda	8,507	2,046	3,263	1,816	8,076
AED Other	(11,713)	(9,820)	(17,614)	12,552	391
Kenya	999	(2,151)	(14,019)	(10,615)	5,332
Somalia	—	—	—	—	3,779
Rwanda	6,866	1,397	(22,128)	858	(6,061)
Burundi	—	—	(2,362)	179	4,571
Total	10,133	(28,925)	(59,204)	(7,712)	7,878
West and Southern Africa					
Nigeria	(2,876)	(193)	(10,852)	(1,227)	18,029
Ghana	(1,022)	(4,945)	(15,287)	1,913	(16,549)
Malawi	3,893	(8,059)	(6,014)	2,117	3,247
Mozambique	(2,608)	(2,618)	(1,437)	(9,331)	3,273
Sierra Leone	(2,160)	(5,239)	6,207	(4,799)	(12,219)
Zambia	(664)	1,755	(6,928)	729	1,910
Zimbabwe	852	3,783	2,164	940	(1,223)
Southern Africa Regional (inc Lesotho, Angola)	(7,637)	(1,453)	7,216	1,753	13,329
South Africa	—	—	(9,543)	612	(5,707)
Liberia	—	—	—	—	2,105
Lesotho	189	—	—	—	—
Total	(12,033)	(16,969)	(34,474)	(7,293)	6,195
Pan-Africa Strategy and Programmes					
Africa-ATP	—	(2,644)	—	—	—
Africa Regional Budget	8,000	10,756	29,342	10,778	15,102
Humanitarian Assistance	1,185	14,488	3	4,198	(837)
Other	(3,245)	—	—	—	2,247
Africa Policy Fund	(7,014)	(10,816)	682	(8,147)	2,943
Total	(1,074)	11,784	30,027	6,829	19,455
Africa total	(2,974)	(34,110)	(63,651)	(8,176)	33,528
South Asia					
India	(17,425)	(7,751)	(1,938)	1,245	3,814
Bangladesh	7,700	(2,962)	1,427	584	(14,808)
Afghanistan	3,396	(9,142)	3,494	3,442	(1,697)
Pakistan	(2,221)	31,656	4,149	1,631	7,695
Nepal	(1,778)	1,650	(1,535)	2,029	(10,989)
Asia Regional Policy and Programmes	(14,552)	1,544	9,275	14,674	(3,875)
Sri Lanka	—	—	—	(2,323)	980
Asia Reserve (inc Post Tsunami Rehab)	—	15,000	—	—	—
South Asia total	(24,880)	29,995	14,872	21,282	(18,880)
Europe, Middle East Americas, Central and East Asia					
Europe/Central Asia					
EU Accession/Pre Accession Countries	(756)	(459)	(169)	—	—
Central Asia, South Caucasus, Moldova	(1,769)	(1,958)	1,486	1,396	2,062

Department for International Development—(over)/under spend against budgets for country programmes, 2003-04 to 2007-08

£000

	(Over)/under spend				
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Balkans	803	2,522	(1,449)	(26)	687
ECAD Regional	2,500	—	—	—	(83)
Ukraine	255	1,222	(474)	(704)	73
Russia	(2,498)	923	(71)	14	125
Total	(1,465)	2,250	(677)	680	2,864
Americas/Overseas Territories					
Latin America	(529)	(2,597)	(465)	336	234
Caribbean	1,254	603	(451)	4,230	(574)
Overseas Territories	(341)	137	(1,535)	(3,241)	(2,049)
Latin America -ATP	—	—	—	—	14
Total	384	(1,857)	(2,451)	1,325	(2,375)
Middle East/North Africa					
Yemen	1,575	1,131	164	(438)	(3)
Palestinian Authority	4,132	(856)	(5,157)	39	(18,002)
Middle East Regional	787	(260)	(158)	(59)	(34)
UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees	(4,646)	202	15	—	—
Iraq	(4,656)	(3,296)	(1,174)	2,084	1,319
Total	(2,808)	(3,079)	(6,310)	1,626	(16,720)
EMAD Regional Programmes					
Research/Consultancy/EMAP Regional	22	(89)	107	(7,291)	8,175
EBRD subscription (Capital)	(778)	331	174	—	—
Other	(25,990)	6,000	—	—	—
Total	(26,746)	6,242	281	(7,291)	8,175
South East Asia					
China	4,348	(7,465)	564	(3,416)	24
Vietnam	—	—	(330)	500	(341)
South East Asia	(3,938)	2,864	4,497	9,982	(2,468)
Total	410	(4,601)	4,731	7,066	(2,785)
Total Europe, Middle East, Americas, Central and East Asia	(30,225)	(1,045)	(4,426)	3,406	(10,841)
Total—country/regional programmes	(58,079)	(5,160)	(53,205)	16,512	3,807

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222110]

Gillian Merron: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department for International Development (DFID) has issued two contracts using the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in the last 36 months:

1. In financial year 2005-06, DFID used Weber Shandwick Worldwide to provide support and deliver public relations support (in the UK and Asia, specifically India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal) to the Asia 2015 conference at a cost of £173,547.71 + VAT. The Asia 2015 conference, held in London on 6-7 March 2006 brought together key decision-makers from Asia and across the world to learn from Asia's success, and to identify future challenges and solutions.

2. In financial year 2007-08, DFID used Munro and Forster Communications Ltd. to develop and deliver public relations support for its caring consumer campaign at a cost of £84,961.59 +VAT.

(b) DFID does not have agencies.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221614]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a working definition of 'think tank'. DFID provides funding to a number of organisations which may be involved in relevant activities, such as policy analysis and research. For example,

DFID has a Programme Partnership Agreement with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) for £3.4 million over 2008-11.

DFID also works with a number of other organisations, in the UK and in partner countries, involved in similar work but collation of a full list of relevant projects would incur disproportionate cost.

DFID provides funding to UK charitable civil society organisations (CSOs) in four ways:

Programme Partnership Agreements provide long-term, predictable funding to UK CSOs working in development;

Humanitarian assistance is provided to CSOs to provide relief in emergency situations;

The Civil Society Challenge Fund is open to CSOs working in development to bid for project specific funding of up to £500,000. Details on individual projects are available online at www.dfid.gov.uk;

Country programmes and central DFID departments may provide funding to, or procure the services of, CSOs working in developing countries to carry out development activities.

Summary figures on DFID funding to UK CSOs are provided in the following table. More detailed data, by organisation, is available in the DFID publications 'Statistics on International Development 2007' and 'Statistics on International Development 2008'. These publications are available online at

www.dfid.gov.uk.

DFID expenditure through UK CSOs 2006-07 and 2007-08

£000

Type of funding	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Programme Partnership Agreements	89,141	89,695
Humanitarian assistance	85,423	80,412
Civil Society Challenge Fund	13,539	14,688
Country programme and other DFID	86,207	131,860
Total	274,309	316,655

Departmental Retirement

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has a mandatory retirement age; and how many employees were asked to retire on reaching 65 years of age in each year since 2000. [218207]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a mandatory retirement age. It continues to observe the national default retirement age of 65.

With the implementation of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations in October 2006, we introduced the Right to Request to Work Beyond Age 65 procedure. No requests have been denied under this procedure.

Since 2000, eight staff have retired at age 65 or above through personal choice.

Developing Countries: Natural Disasters

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to encourage the implementation of early warning systems for natural disasters in developing countries. [222480]

Mr. Thomas: The UK believes that the most effective early warning systems are those which are owned by national governments and involve vulnerable communities, rather than focusing only on developing high-tech equipment. Examples of Department for International Development (DFID) support include:

£1.5 million to the United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) to support an Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System (IOTWS).

£2.15 million to an International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) disaster risk reduction programme which involved a component on early warning systems.

£7.5 million to Bangladesh (since 2004) to improve its early warning systems through a Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme. This programme, among other things, has established a Disaster Management Information Centre which in the coming period is expected to develop one nation-wide community early warning system, and implement training and simulation exercises with key technical and operational partners.

Developing Countries: Water

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* projects and *(b)* research are being undertaken by his Department in its European co-ordinator role for water and sanitation research for developing countries. [220521]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) co-ordinates the four-year EU-funded project European Union Water Initiative European Research Area Network, EUWI ERANET and is working with its 15 European partners to:

1. Collate and synthesise information on European funded research programmes in developing countries. This aims to support collaboration between existing initiatives and projects.

2. Review research management practice, and develop guidance on good research management. This aims to improve the effectiveness of future programmes and activities.

3. Identify thematic priorities as a basis to develop future activities, jointly agreed and funded by the European partners. Planning work for future activities is currently being carried out.

Disabled

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the inclusion of disabled people is a key issue in each of its programme evaluations and reviews. [224468]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is responsible for undertaking a wide variety of reviews and evaluations of the work that we support throughout the developing world. This includes, for example, project reviews, country programme reviews and evaluations of DFID's partnerships, such as with United Nations agencies.

DFID's Evaluation Department is currently managing a stocktake of DFID's Social Exclusion policy, which will look into (among other things) how disability is addressed throughout our programmes, including through reviews and evaluations. We are also currently developing a cross-DFID policy on evaluation which will set principles, norms and standards for evaluations and reviews. There will be a public consultation on the draft policy document

at the end of this year. In this context, we would welcome public views on how to tackle complex issues such as addressing the inclusion of disabled people on a more systematic basis in our reviews and evaluations.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what date the euro changeover plan of his Department was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version. [215689]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development's (DFID) Euro Programme Initiation Document (PID) is dated May 2005. The most recent review was in May 2007. A copy will be placed in the Library.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contracts his Department has with EDF; and how much his Department paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221846]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has had three contracts with EDF for the supply of electricity. The payments made on those contracts are as follows:

£

Financial year	*London HQ 1 Palace Street*	*London Annexe 20 Victoria Street*	*East Kilbride HQ Abercrombie House*	*Total*
2001-02	127,453	14,558	0	142,011
2002-03	74,105	21,520	0	95,625
2003-04	45,409	12,048	0	57,457
2004-05	217,271	20,658	0	237,929
2005-06	307,611	24,215	68,372	333,605
2006-07	391,139	28,309	201,732	621,180
2007-08	377,362	0	195,728	573,090
2008 (year to date)	123,665	0	70,390	194,055

Environment Protection: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what bodies will receive funding from the £24 million allocated to eliminate illegal logging; what proportion each will receive; and what steps will be taken to eliminate such logging. [224140]

Mr. Thomas: The bulk of the £24 million—£19 million—is the UK's contribution to implementation of Voluntary Partnership Agreements under the EU's Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. These agreements will support improved forest governance in timber producing countries and implement a licensing scheme to ensure that their timber trade with the EU is legal. £12 million is for West and Central African countries and £7 million for Asian countries. Funds will go to both Government agencies and civil society organisations in these countries with allocation in each varying according to their specific programmes. The remaining £5 million is for international supporting actions, including policy research and support to civil society (approximately £1.326 million allocated to date), involvement of the private sector (£901,000 allocated to date), work with major non-EU timber importing countries (£233,000 allocated to date), and general programme coordination (£558,000 allocated to date). Further information is available on the Department for International Development website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/forest-govern-trade2.asp

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes will be funded by the £5 million committed to harmonise and strengthen international efforts for the creation of a favourable business climate in major timber producing countries. [224141]

Mr. Thomas: Grants to date for the private sector work have totalled approximately £901,000. These have included a grant to the UK Timber Trade Federation to work with its own members and with sister associations in the UK and other countries to adopt policies and practices that favour trade in legal and sustainable timber; support to WWF's Global Forest Trade Network to link businesses working to produce legal and sustainable timber in China and Ghana; and support for implementation of the UK's public timber procurement policy.

Grants and contracts for policy research, communications and advocacy work have totalled approximately £1.326 million to date. This has included meetings and research conducted by Chatham House; development of briefing notes to explain the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan; support for production of short films and booklets about the problem of illegal logging and solutions to it; support for a civil society network between countries negotiating voluntary partnership agreements with the EU; and contribution to the European Forestry Institute to support the European Commission in negotiating and implementing voluntary partnership agreements.

Grants for work with major timber importing countries have totalled £233,000 to date. This has included support to the GLOBE Dialogue on Illegal logging associated with Japan's G8 Summit and initiation of work with India. It has also included government-to-government dialogue with the United States, Japan, China and other EU member states.

Commitments to date on programme coordination has totalled approximately £558,000. This has included fees for a programme facilitator, and annual independent programme monitoring.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the reasons are for the amount of development aid and assistance allocated to *(a)* Ethiopia and *(b)* Eritrea in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [222664]

Gillian Merron: UK Aid to Ethiopia was: £90.5 million in 2006-07 and £139.5 million in 2007-08 and is budgeted to be £140 million in 2008-09. These allocations have been made in recognition of the needs of the large poor population and the Government of Ethiopia's commitment to poverty reduction, strong financial management capacity and programmes to improve capacity. The UK Government have been able to establish a strong development partnership that is delivering real impact in terms of better service delivery and poverty reduction.

UK Aid to Eritrea was £3.49 million in 2006-07 and £3.37 million in 2007-08 and is budgeted to be £2.1 million in 2008-09. UK Government assistance is limited to a humanitarian programme, which is channelled through international relief agencies. The UK Government do not have a development programme in Eritrea because it has not been possible to establish a development partnership with the Eritrean Government.

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222267]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a core Department of 20 staff working exclusively on European Union (EU) aid policy and implementation. This includes two posts in the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the EU (in Brussels). In addition, a variety of other departments in DFID deal with specific issues to which EU policy is relevant, including: trade, migration, aid effectiveness, climate change and preparation of the EU-Africa strategy. None of these other departments, however, are exclusively EU focused.

Global Cluster Appeal

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the extent to which the independent evaluation conducted by the emergency relief co-ordinator concluded that the cluster approach designating a particular organisation to lead the humanitarian response in a given sector of aid improved the efficiency of the humanitarian effort. [224133]

Mr. Thomas: An independent evaluation of the cluster approach was carried out in 2007. The review found that

"Most evident were improvements made in filling gaps and extending capacity. Predictability of leadership was also considerably enhanced by lead agencies accepting responsibility for the totality of their sectors."

The Department for International Development (DFID) continues to work with the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and lead agencies at both policy and operational levels to ensure cluster leadership responsibilities are a core function of their organisation.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215109]

Gillian Merron: Communication is integral to the Department for International Development's (DFID) mission. We do not keep central records of all staff working on communications across the Department and this information could not be gathered without incurring disproportionate costs. DFID does not have any agencies.

All staff who work in a communication role can access the Government Communication Network (GCN) and the resources that it provides.

Horn of Africa: Food Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the number of people likely to be dependent on emergency food aid in the Horn of Africa in the period from 2008-09. [216295]

Gillian Merron: Analysis made by the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UNOCHA), drawing on a range of assessments made by UN agencies and NGOs, suggests that at least 17 million people are currently in urgent need of food and other humanitarian assistance. This is a result of conflict, forced displacement, starvation and disease, poor agro-climatic conditions and high food and fuel prices. This analysis is supported by Department for International Development (DFID) humanitarian experts who have visited some of the worst affected areas in the Horn in the past two months.

Prospects for 2009 depend on the harvests and condition of pasture lands, and these in turn depend on the rains. In south east Ethiopia and Somalia the level of insecurity is an important determinant of the level of humanitarian needs.

Humanitarian Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much core funding has been provided by his Department to humanitarian agencies for 2008-09. [224135]

Mr. Thomas: With increasing humanitarian needs and the requirement for a stronger global system, the Department for International Development (DFID)

works with multilateral agencies to enhance their effectiveness in providing humanitarian support and response. Core funding arrangements, which are linked to additional performance, are currently in place with the: International Organisation for Migration (IOM), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), Office for the Co-ordinator for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC). Total funding for these agencies for 2008-09 is £39 million.

Indian Ocean Tsunami

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funds his Department has disbursed to Sri Lanka for reconstruction assistance since the tsunami; what recent changes have been made to the disbursement; and if he will make a statement. [220718]

Mr. Malik: During the period 2006-07, as part of our post-tsunami reconstruction, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £2 million bilateral funds, supporting work on local economic governance and improving the management of recovery and reconstruction.

£1.5 million was allocated for the North East Provincial Council to empower communities and improve service delivery in the North East by strengthening local government capacity.

£0.5 million was allocated to the Asia Foundation to improve the overall business environment, contributing to improved welfare and political stability in multi-ethnic and tsunami-affected areas of the country.

DFID's bilateral development programme in Sri Lanka has now closed and our funding (£1.5 million per year) is now focussed through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCCP) working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to support peace building activities in Sri Lanka.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1040W, on Iraq: reconstruction, what the 10 largest infrastructure projects in Southern Iraq supported by his Department are; and to what extent his Department has engaged local residents to assist in the provision of security for such projects. [223859]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information requested is as follows:

Project description	*Amount (£)*
Refurbishment of electricity transmission and distribution networks and of water treatment plants and pumping stations.	20.0 million
Provision of emergency infrastructure support and employment generation in Basra, Al Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Maysan.	16.5 million
Construction of three 25m water towers and three 8000 cubic meter water reservoirs.	10.0 million
Refurbishment of a pumping station to boost the oil pressure that feeds three power stations in southern/central Iraq.	9.2 million
Refurbishment of 48 public buildings across Southern Iraq, including hospitals, universities and governorate offices.	7.7 million
Provision of six new blades for two damaged turbines at Khor Az Zubayr power station in southern Iraq.	4.0 million
Repair of one of the 90m chimneys at Al-Hartha power station, north of Basra.	1.6 million
Refurbishment of a reverse osmosis water purification unit and replacement or repair of two water filter membranes.	650,000
Construction of a training centre to train water technicians to repair and maintain southern Iraq's water infrastructure.	334,000
Replacement of 15 water pumps and refurbishment of 7 pumps at Al-Hartha pumping station.	315,000

To ensure the security of infrastructure projects, DFID has engaged the government of Iraq or local communities as appropriate. The majority of projects have been situated within existing government of Iraq facilities and DFID has therefore agreed security arrangements with the relevant government ministry. In other cases, because of the benefit projects will bring to the local community, tribal leaders have agreed to ensure the security of sites.

Lebanon: Land Mines

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what work has been undertaken on UK funded operations to clear land mines in south Lebanon; and what plans there are for further such work. [223735]

Mr. Thomas: In immediate response to the conflict in the Lebanon in 2006 the UK Government provided funds of over £3 million to clear mines, cluster munitions and other remnants of conflict in south Lebanon by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and Mines Action Group (MAG). Our commitment continues, with around £1 million committed to fund the work of UNMAS and MAG in south Lebanon over the next two years.

Maldives: Overseas Aid

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department provided to the Maldives in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; how much it plans to provide in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [216345]

Mr. Malik: In 2005-06 Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral overseas development assistance (ODA) to the Maldives was £1 million. In 2005-06 the UK also provided £5.5 million to the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Tsunami Recovery Programme. This included £5 million through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The funds have supported four of UNDP's five tsunami projects; shelter, livelihoods, disaster risk management and aid co-ordination.

Since 2005-06 DFID has not provided any bilateral overseas development assistance to the Maldives. However, DFID continues to provide support to the Maldives through its contribution to the European Community (EC). The amount of EC Aid provided by DFID to the Maldives in 2005 was £131,529, £915,020 in 2006, and £620,902 in 2007. There are no data available yet for 2008.

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department is providing with the UN Development Programme to create stable states; how much has been allocated to these programmes in 2008-09; what the administrative costs associated with these programmes will be in 2008-09; and what mechanisms his Department has to evaluate the effectiveness of its bilateral aid aimed at facilitating stability in fragile states. [220387]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports UNDP with core funding (£190 million in 2004-07), as well as supporting specific initiatives, such as the UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), and our country programme work. For example, this year DFID gave £200,000 to a UNDP trust fund that supported Kofi Annan's role in helping resolve the post-election crisis in Kenya. It is not yet possible to provide figures for financial year 2008-09 or an administration cost breakdown. UNDP's administration costs vary according to the programme and context, but the amount in many agreements is between 7 and 11 per cent.

DFID has procedures for routinely assessing aid programmes and has adapted the normal framework for its Country Programme Evaluations to take account of the specific requirements for aid effectiveness in fragile states, following the OECD-DAC Principles for Good International Engagement in fragile states.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes were funded by the £13.5 million contributed by his Department to the Civil Society Challenge Fund; and what the administrative costs associated with each programme were. [220449]

Mr. Malik: A table listing the 163 programmes supported by £13.5 million from the Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) during 2006-07 will be placed in the Library.

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not track administrative costs for each individual CSCF programme. During 2006-07, DFID's administrative cost for consultancy support to the CSCF as a whole was £227,518.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been allocated by his Department to joint funding schemes with the research councils in 2008-09; and how much his Department will spend on administration of such schemes in 2008-09. [220525]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has joint funding schemes with four Research Councils. We estimate that spend on these programmes this financial year will be as shown in the following table.

Programme	*£ million*
Medical Research Council	5.4
Joint Natural Environment Research Council/Economic and Social Research Council Eco Systems Programme	0.5
Economic and Social Research Council	3
Biology and Biological Sciences Research Council	1.7

The DFID cost of administering these schemes is estimated at 2 to 3 per cent.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1183W, on Pakistan: overseas aid, how much his Department is planning to spend on national health programmes in Pakistan during 2008-09; and how this funding will be distributed. [223679]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is planning to spend approximately £35.6 million on national health programmes in Pakistan between April 2008 and March 2009. This will be distributed in a variety of ways, including:

(i) £15 million to the Ministry of Health for implementation of the national health facility (NHF). This supports seven priority national health programmes:

HIV/AIDs, TB and Malaria control, Nutrition, Immunization, access to basic health care and family planning from female health workers, and a Population and Welfare programme.

(ii) £10.7 million to the Ministry of Health's Maternal and New Born Health (MNH) programme.

(iii) Approximately £1.6 million for research, advocacy, monitoring and capacity building support in managing the NHF and MNH programmes.

(iv) £3.3 million support to National and Provincial HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes (provided through a World Bank Trust Fund)

(v) £5 million to the World Health Organisation and UNICEF to support the national polio eradication programme.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1044-45W, on South Asia: tuberculosis, what the seven national health programmes his Department supports in Pakistan are; and on what initiatives his Department's contribution of £15 million to support the national programme between 2005 and 2008 has been spent. [223853]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting priority national health and population welfare programmes in Pakistan through the National Health Facility. These are: Lady Health Workers, Population Welfare, Immunisation, Nutrition, TB, Malaria and HIV/AIDS.

DFID's financial contribution between financial years 2005-06 and 2007-08 totalled £52.5 million. This funding was disbursed to all seven programmes. It has helped achieve the following health outcomes in Pakistan for the period 2002-07:

The TB Programme has reached a target of 87 per cent. of cases successfully treated, three years ahead of schedule; case detection rates have also increased sharply, to 69 per cent. in 2007 and are also likely to reach the 2010 target (70 per cent.) ahead of schedule. (Source: National TB Control Programme Management Information System, 2007)

23 per cent. increase in children fully immunised by the Expanded Programme of Immunization. (sources: Pakistan Survey Living Standards Measurement 2006-07; Pakistan Integrated Household Survey 2001-02).

450,000 more cases of malaria confirmed and treated (Source: Malaria Control Programme Management Information System, 2007).

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1041-42W, on Pakistan: overseas aid, which of the 10 largest programmes supported by his Department in Pakistan in 2007 have continued in 2008; how much his Department is contributing to each in 2008; and when *(a)* the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation programme and *(b)* other short-term programmes are expected to be completed. [223854]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2008-09 DFID is planning to continue providing support to all but one (the Faisalabad Area Upgrade Programme) of the 10 programmes referred to in our answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1041-42W.

The current 2008-09 forecast for our 10 largest programmes is as follows (note this is subject to change, and it is difficult for us to provide a full breakdown by calendar year):

	Amount
General Budget Support	20,000,000
Pakistan Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation	19,500,000
National Health Facility	15,000,000
Strengthening Education in Pakistan	11,800,000
Maternal and Newborn Health	700,000
Financial Inclusion Programme	10,000,000
Polio Programme	5,000,000
HIV/AIDS Programme	3,000,000
Humanitarian Assistance to Flood Victims and Internally Displaced People	3,000,000
Devolved Social Services Programme Financial Support	2,500,000

The Earthquake Rehabilitation programme is currently scheduled to end in April 2010 and is subject to approval. Other projects supporting pro-poor growth, social protection and the elections are also scheduled for completion, though we will follow up with further diagnostic work.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1041W, on Pakistan: overseas aid, to what extent his Department may determine the ways in which the State Bank allocates the £50 million provided for Pakistan's Financial Inclusion Programme; what the primary aims of the programme are; and what outcomes from the programme his Department expects. [223856]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Pakistan Financial Inclusion Programme (FIP), designed by the State Bank of Pakistan and the Department for International Development (DFID), has a joint Steering Committee which makes all key strategic decisions.

The purpose of the FIP is to ensure that more poor people benefit from the provision of financial services in Pakistan. It aims to increase the number of microfinance users from 1.4 million to 3.0 million by 2010 and to 5.0 million by 2012. It will improve the regulatory framework for private financial service provision, strengthen public private partnerships, and ensure the effective use of technology in ways that will help benefit excluded groups. It will also help mobilise up to £50 million from the private financial sector to help improve access to finance, including in rural areas.

Remittances Task Force

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support his Department is providing to the Remittances Task Force in 2008-09; and what assessment he has made of the economic effect of remittances from the UK on developing countries. [220541]

Mr. Malik: The UK Remittances Task Force was set up in 2006, with support from the Department for International Development (DFID), to pursue the Key Findings and Recommendations of the UK Remittances Working Group. Originally set at 12 months, our support to the Task Force has been extended already as a response to the need for further work to fully achieve its objectives. DFID's financial support to the Task Force is £23,600 from March to December 2008. DFID also provides advice to the Task Force and regularly dialogues with its Steering Committee. We will continue to review this support on an ongoing, needs assessed basis.

Estimates suggest that remittances from the UK are upwards of £2.7 billion, with the largest flows going to Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Jamaica and Ghana. DFID recognises the positive impact that these money transfers can make on people's lives in developing countries, and has an active agenda to improve the developmental impact of remittances, seeking to help make remittances cheaper, safer and more accessible. When responding to a DFID funded survey in the UK, almost a third of remittance senders said that their money would be used to buy food, a fifth said it would help with medical bills and one in six reported that the funds would help pay for schooling. 80 per cent. of those surveyed said the money would make a real difference to the lives of their relatives back home.

Sierra Leone: Females

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1183W on Sierra Leone: human rights, what further steps the government of Sierra Leone plans to take to encourage more women to vote and to stand as candidates for election; and what steps his Department plans to take to support this process. [223692]

Gillian Merron: In preparation for the local elections in July 2008 the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) carried out a mapping exercise of female candidates to guide the development of focused support programmes. These aimed to motivate and enhance their skills in areas that included; developing their own manifestos and agendas; advocacy/lobbying; overcoming intimidation from males; and public speaking.

The GoSL also worked closely with non-governmental organisation (NGO) partners such as the National Democratic Institute (NDI), 50-50 Women's Group and the National Accountability Group (NAG) to develop and carry out specific training focused on the empowerment of female candidates. Some of these NGOs are being funded by DFID under an umbrella programme Promoting Voice and Transparency around elections (PIVOT).

The results of the council elections show a 100 per cent. increase in the number of successful female councillors, from 9 per cent. to 18.9 per cent.

Sierra Leone: Human Rights

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1183W on Sierra Leone: human rights, when he expects the government of Sierra Leone to undertake formal assessment of progress of the study as a whole. [223691]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development understands that a review of the study prepared by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will be undertaken by the UN co-ordinated gender focus group. This forum was established to monitor the implementation of the Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. A date is yet to have been agreed.

Sierra Leone: Water

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to what agencies the £32 million was allocated for providing water and sanitation services in Sierra Leone. [224143]

Gillian Merron: The principal partner for this nationwide programme is the Government of Sierra Leone—primarily the Ministries of Energy and Power, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development at the national level and the district councils at the local level. We are also working with UNICEF and non-governmental organisations which include PLAN, Oxfam, and Goal.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222169]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development is committed to the well-being of its employees and has a number of procedures in place to help reduce stress at work. A stress management framework, part of our Better Balance initiative, is available through a dedicated website on the Department's intranet. It gives all employees easy to use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

Better Balance brings together the "toolkit" for dealing with all aspects of managing pressure at work, stress and work/life balance. Some examples of assistance include:

UK-based staff can access the Heath and Wellbeing Team who can provide individual counselling and coaching services to staff to support them in managing pressure and stress at work;

All staff working overseas have access to a 24/7 counselling service;

Debriefing and counselling arrangements are available for staff working in hostile environments;

Better Balance workshops on managing work/life balance under pressure and which can be tailored to specific teams;

An interactive health and emotional well-being website, provided by the counselling services and written by medically qualified professionals, that gives advice on all aspects of physical and emotional well-being;

Leadership Impact reports for senior managers, helping them to understand the likely impact of their leadership style on the levels of engagement, well-being and performance in their workgroup;

Access to Occupational Health Services.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223034]

Mr. Malik: It is not possible to disaggregate costs in respect of taxis across all offices of the Department for International Development (DFID) without incurring a disproportionate cost. The figure available for UK based staff costs in relation to taxis, for financial year 2007-08, was £195,483.

Thailand: Refugees

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to raise concerns with the Royal Thai Government on the recent deportation of Karen refugees, including women and children, to Burma from camps in Thailand. [222582]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government is aware of recent reports of forced returns of Karen refugees from Thailand to Burma. The British embassy and Department for International Development officials in Bangkok frequently raise refugee welfare issues with the Royal Thai Government, most recently in August 2008.

In 2008-09 DFID is providing £1 million to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium for its work supporting Burmese refugees in Thailand and internally displaced people inside Burma. This is a 30 per cent. increase on our 2007-08 contribution. In addition, DFID will provide £550,000 for assistance to internally displaced people through community-based organisations inside Burma, an increase of £150,000 over 2007-08. This aid will reach over 100,000 displaced people, mostly in Karen communities, living near Burma's border with Thailand.

The UK Government condemns the continuing human rights abuse inflicted by the Burmese regime on its people, including ethnic groups such as the Karen. A political settlement acceptable to the ethnic nationalities is key to a durable solution to Burma's problems. The UK Government frequently brings reports of human rights abuse to the attention of the international community, the United Nations and the Human Rights Council.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how he plans to ensure that his Department meets its obligation under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to *(a)* make development assistance inclusive and *(b)* include disabled people in all programme evaluations and reviews on ratification of the Convention. [218193]

Mr. Malik: The information is as follows.

(a) Inclusive development assistance

The Department for International Development (DFID) is aware of the importance of international cooperation as stated in Article 32 of the UN Convention. We understand the need to find ways to promote the inclusion of disabled people into mainstream development as well as looking for ways to build the capacity of representative organisations of disabled people. Our Civil Society Challenge Fund identifies disability as a cross-cutting issue so all applications need to demonstrate how they are engaging with disabled people. The latest round of applications saw a record number of projects with disability as the main focus (22 out of 145) which indicates that more international organisations are becoming aware of the need to promote the rights of disabled people.

We are supporting several initiatives aimed at increasing the capacity of disabled people's organisations. We have a Programme Partnership Agreement (PPA) with UK-based Action on Disability and Development which is working directly with disabled people's organisations (DPOs) in eight countries across Africa and Asia. Recently we also committed to providing substantial support to a new Disability Rights Fund (DRF) set up to empower DPOs to participate effectively in the implementation and monitoring mechanisms set out in the UN Convention. This is one of the first foundations to support organisations run by disabled people in the developing world.

As suggested by Article 32 DFID is also looking at ways to increase the amount of disability related research. We are currently funding the Southern Africa Federation of Disabled People Research Project (SRP) which is an innovative project designed and run by disabled people in the region. This project is helping local DPOs to research issues linked to disability and poverty and is already starting to produce evidence of the kinds of barriers disabled people face when trying to access basic services.

(b) Inclusion of disabled people in programme reviews and evaluations

All major country and thematic reviews are now quality assured to ensure they will address the exclusion of different groups. This includes disability as well as for example, gender and people affected by HIV and AIDS. Currently we are developing a new strategy for evaluation which will include reference to disability. The strategy will be available for public consultation.

UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the £0.5 million allocated to the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs to improve dialogue between the humanitarian co-ordinators based in a country receiving aid and emergency relief coordinators will be spent on. [224131]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £0.5 million over three years (2006 to 2008) to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to support its efforts to strengthen UN humanitarian leadership at country level. OCHA has established a team at headquarters dedicated to humanitarian coordinator (HC) strengthening through delivering training and guidance to humanitarian coordinators in the field; expanding the number of experienced humanitarian coordinators available for deployment, including through improved leadership development; and enhancing the knowledge and skills of humanitarian coordinators through knowledge sharing and best practice.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to better support Saharawi refugees in the occupied territories in Morocco and Algeria. [222401]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports Sahrawi refugees through its share of the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office's (ECHO) budget, and contributions to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). ECHO plans to provide €10 million in 2008 to support Western Saharan refugees of which the UK share is approximately €1.7 million. In 2007, the UK contributed $56 million to UNHCR for its work with refugees across the world, including from Western Sahara. DFID's funding to UNHCR in 2008-09 is shortly to be agreed.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has in place in the event of humanitarian needs arising in Zimbabwe. [222618]

Gillian Merron: The humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe is expected to worsen further this year as inflation, economic decline and hunger increase. The Department for International Development (DFID) has already made a contribution of £9 million in this financial year to the

World Food Programme (WFP) for food aid and will consider making a further contribution if required. We also plan to spend £10 million this year through the Protracted Relief Programme. This complements emergency food aid by supporting livelihoods and helping to prevent families from falling into destitution.

Other DFID programmes provide support to Zimbabwean migrants, orphans, essential health care including maternal and infant mortality reduction, and to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS. All DFID programmes in Zimbabwe have been designed to react rapidly to deepening humanitarian needs.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 6 October 2008

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Table 8 of the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2007, what the techniques that caused psychological stress involved; which ungulates were subjected to such techniques; and for what reasons there was a rise from the previous year in the number of animals subjected to techniques involving psychological stress. [222751]

Meg Hillier: All of the animals in question were pigs. The licensed work seeks to identify how genetic and environmental components, such as standard husbandry practices, impact on animal welfare, and the insights gained are intended to assist farmers and others identify areas of concern and suggest means of improving welfare. In 2006 the work focused on studies not involving psychological stress. The stressors used in 2007 were either routine housing and husbandry practices or involved the mixing of unfamiliar animals which may cause a level of psychological stress.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2007, how many of the procedures recorded were conducted on *(a)* foxes, *(b)* badgers, *(c)* common seals, *(d)* bats, *(e)* pine martins, *(f)* bottle-nosed dolphins and *(g)* squirrels; and if she will publish equivalent figures for those species in future sets of statistics. [222753]

Meg Hillier: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Details of the information that is collected, including the classification of species, is published at Appendix B of the Department's publication Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2007, a copy of which can be obtained from the Department's website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/spanimals07appb.pdf

We have no plans to review or revise the species breakdown used in the annual statistics publication. The publication of statistics of scientific procedures on living animals for Great Britain is part of the National Statistics framework. The content of the collection and outputs are subject to review by the UK Statistics Authority and takes account of burdens on data suppliers, the needs of users, data quality issues and resources.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Table 6a of the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2007, what the purpose was of each of the procedures recorded as being conducted for alcohol research. [222755]

Meg Hillier: The primary purpose of the procedures recorded in 2007 was fundamental biological research. It is Government policy not to allow the use of animals for the development and testing of alcohol products. There are, therefore, no licences authorising such procedures.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what means she ensures that project licences are granted only for those animal procedures where no suitable non-animal alternative exists; whether her Department requires a retrospective evaluation to be undertaken on the completion of a project of whether non-animal alternatives could have been used; and if she will make a statement. [222774]

Meg Hillier: Under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, the Home Office can only license the use of animals for scientific purposes where there is no non-animal alternative, and then only when both the number of animals and their suffering is minimised. A significant proportion of the time spent by Home Office inspectors assessing applications for new project licences and amendments is devoted to ensuring that these principles are rigorously applied. In addition, the retrospective review of project licences is a key function of the local ethical review process that every establishment designated under the 1986 Act is required to maintain.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the primary reasons are for the increase in the number of animals used in scientific procedures since 1997. [222792]

Meg Hillier: Historically, the number of scientific procedures declined after 1976, levelled out in the 1990s and since 2000 has risen back to around the level recorded in 1990 (historical tables are available online at the Home Office website). Many factors influence trends in the use of animals under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, including the economic climate, global trends in scientific endeavour and strategic decisions by funding bodies. The increase in the use of genetically altered strains seen over recent years has also had an impact as advances in genetics open up new and promising avenues of medical research.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's definition is of fundamental biological research as it relates to scientific procedures involving animals. [222793]

Meg Hillier: For the purpose of measuring the primary purpose of procedures, fundamental biological research is defined as "studies of normal, or abnormal, structure or function of living organisms, organs, tissues, cells or other systems (including fundamental studies in toxicology)".

Details of the information that is collected is published at Appendix B of the Department's publication Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2007, a copy of which can be obtained from the Department's website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/spanimals07appb.pdf

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has set targets for the proportion of scientific procedures to be undertaken without using animals. [222795]

Meg Hillier: No targets have been set for a proportion of scientific procedures to be undertaken without using animals. We consider it is unrealistic, and would raise false hopes, to set a date by which it will be feasible to phase out animal use before scientific progress provides the means to do so.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances animals from non-designated sources within the UK may be granted exemptions for use in scientific procedures. [222796]

Meg Hillier: The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 sets limits on the Secretary of State's powers to allow exemptions to obtain animals from non-designated sources within the UK. In the case of cats and dogs, exemptions may be granted only when no animal suitable for the purpose of the programme specified in the licence can be obtained from a designated breeding establishment; in the case of animals taken from the wild, exemptions may be granted only when no animal suitable for the purpose of the programme specified in the licence can be obtained from a designated breeder or supplier, or another captive-bred source and in the case of animals of an endangered species, they may only be used on projects aimed at their preservation or for essential biomedical purposes where the species in question exceptionally proves to be the only one suitable for the purpose.

Additional administrative controls require that, unless otherwise authorised by the Secretary of State, designated breeding and supplying establishments may only obtain animals of the types listed in Schedule 2 to the Act from other designated sources.

Applicants seeking permission to obtain such animals from non-designated sources are generally required to demonstrate that no suitable animal can be obtained from a designated source. Suitability may be determined by particular factors including strain, age, weight and health status.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2007, for what reasons returns *(a)* are required on the use of animals listed under Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), *(b)* are not required on the use of animals listed under Appendix 2 of CITES; and if she will make it her policy to prohibit the use of animals listed under either Appendix 1 of Appendix 2 of CITES in scientific procedures. [222798]

Meg Hillier: Statistical returns are required in respect of endangered species as defined by section 10 (3A) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, which transposes Article 4 of European Directive 86/609/EEC providing protection to species listed in Appendix 1 to CITES and Annex C1 to Council regulation 3626/82. We have no plans to extend protection to species listed in Appendix 2.

Animal Experiments: Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Table 2 of the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2007 *(a)* from which countries and *(b)* for what scientific purposes the dogs referred to were imported. [222757]

Meg Hillier: The majority of imported dogs are for use in regulatory toxicology studies. For security reasons, it is not our practice to disclose details of their countries of origin .

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the increase in the use of dogs in scientific procedures between 2006 and 2007; and if she will make a statement. [222799]

Meg Hillier: The increase in procedures using dogs occurred in two areas: applied studies in human medicine and dentistry and the protection of man, animals and the environment. There is, however, no evidence that this represents a significant trend. The use of dogs varies year on year depending on the particular programmes of work being undertaken.

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licences were granted by her Department for the conduct of *(a)* 12-month dog toxicity and *(b)* carcinogenicity studies using mice for the purpose of evaluating risks of plant protection products and their ingredients in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008; and if she will make a statement. [222660]

Meg Hillier: The information requested is not readily identifiable from Home Office records. However, I can confirm that in practice 13-week dog studies are the current norm for the purpose of evaluating risks of plant protection products or their ingredients unless there is scientific justification for a longer study.

Animal Experiments: Macaques

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Table 1a of the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2007, how many macaques of each species were used in the procedures recorded. [222756]

Meg Hillier: The information requested is not available. Data on individual species of macaques is not collected. I can confirm, however, that only rhesus and cynomolgous macaques have been imported for use in scientific procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in recent years.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many live primates were imported from China for use in scientific procedures in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008 to date. [221825]

Meg Hillier: In 2006, 244 live non-human primates were imported to the United Kingdom from China for use in scientific procedures. In 2007, there were 50 and none to date have been imported in 2008. The numbers imported directly from China have declined since 2006 because macaques originating from the Chinese breeding centre are now exported from China to a European supplying centre where animals are held pending sale to European customers.

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulated procedures conducted in Scotland in 2007 under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 involved *(a)* cats, *(b)* dogs, *(c)* rabbits, *(d)* horses and other equids, *(e)* New World primates and *(f)* Old World primates; and how many of those procedures in each case involved (i) genetically modified animals and (ii) animals with a harmful genetic defect. [223758]

Meg Hillier: During 2007, in Scotland, there were 16 regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 using cats, 1,386 using dogs, 5,988 using rabbits, 2,758 using horses and other equids, 59 using new world primates and 1,154 using old world primates. None of these procedures used genetically modified animals or animals with a harmful genetic defect.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual animals were used in regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2007. [223939]

Meg Hillier: 381,134 animals were used in regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2007.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mice, *(b)* rats, *(c)* guinea pigs, *(d)* hamsters, *(e)* rabbits, *(f)* horses and other equids, *(g)* sheep, *(h)* pigs, *(i)* birds, *(j)* amphibians, *(k)* reptiles, *(l)* fish, *(m)* cats, *(n)* dogs, *(o)* New World primates and *(p)* Old World primates were used in regulated procedures conducted in Scotland under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2007. [223940]

Meg Hillier: During 2007, in Scotland, there were 258,391 mice, 50,634 rats, 2,861 guinea pigs, 441 hamsters, 2,902 rabbits, 128 horses and other equids, 5,150 sheep, 761 pigs, 4,477 birds, 86 amphibians, 51,497 fish, 16 cats, 1001 dogs, 50 new world primates and 902 old world primates used in regulated procedures under the 1986 Act. No reptiles were used.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* genetically modified animals and *(b)* animals with a harmful genetic defect were used in regulated procedures conducted in Scotland under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2007. [223943]

Meg Hillier: During 2007, in Scotland, there were a total of 381,134 animals used in regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, of which 150,943 were genetically modified animals and 12,112 were animals with a harmful genetic defect.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 that were in force in Scotland at the end of 2007 were in *(a)* mild, *(b)* moderate, *(c)* substantial and *(d)* unclassified severity bandings. [223945]

Meg Hillier: During 2007, in Scotland, 37 per cent. of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were in the mild severity banding, 58 per cent. in moderate, 1.5 per cent. in substantial and 3.5 per cent were unclassified.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 carried out in Scotland in 2007 were conducted without anaesthesia. [223946]

Meg Hillier: Under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, all procedures must be carried out under general or local anaesthesia unless the anaesthesia would be more traumatic to the animal than the procedure itself, or anaesthesia is incompatible with the object of the experiment. Typical protocols not requiring the use of anaesthesia include those involving only minimally invasive dosing or sampling, and dietary studies.

There were a total of 392,671 regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2007, of which 251,517 (64 per cent.) were without anaesthesia.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were recorded in Scotland in 2007; and how many resulting prosecutions there were. [223947]

Meg Hillier: During 2007 there was one infringement of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 reported at a designated establishment in Scotland, and this did not result in a prosecution.

Animal Experiments: Statistics

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2007, what procedures her Department uses to *(a)* ensure the accuracy of the published statistics and *(b)* correct any inaccuracies. [222797]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to the Introductory Notes of the Department's publication Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2007, paragraphs 2-8.

The statistics are compiled from returns, submitted by project licence holders at the end of each year, or on the termination of the licence when this occurs during the year. A simplified copy of the form and its instructions can be found in Appendix B, a copy of which can be obtained from the Department's website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/spanimals07appb.pdf

Licence holders are required, as a condition of their licence, to submit a return even if no work has been undertaken (nil returns). A record is kept of all licensees from whom returns have been received. Those who fail to do so are reminded of their obligation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

To ensure that the published data are as complete as possible, the Home Office will not publish the statistics unless the number of missing returns represents less than 0.5 per cent. of all the returns expected. In 2007, all forms were returned.

Verification and subsequent publication of these statistics are done by the Science and Research Group (SRG) of the Home Office. Checks include whether sub-totals sum to totals, and whether totals are consistent across different tables.

Project licence holders classify their procedures according to a standard coding list, see Appendix B. The current classification system dates from 1995, and was modified in 1999 in those areas relating to source of animals, production and breeding, toxicology and legislation. During the collection and verification process, forms that have been incorrectly coded are referred back to the licensees for correction.

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate (ASPI) scrutinise the returns and output tables and provide advice to SRG. During this process, inspectors may contact licensees to discuss and confirm coding, and inform SRG of any amendments that may be necessary.

Where errors are identified, these may be corrected within internet versions of publications and in subsequent editions of the annual publication. Decisions on whether to correct data are a matter for Science and Research Group (SRG) of the Home Office and the Home Office's chief statistician, as part of the National Statistics framework.

Community Safety Accreditation Schemes

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many imams have been accredited under the arrangements put in place by her Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government for such accreditation. [224533]

Mr. Khan: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Communities and Local Government supports a range of community-led training programmes for Muslim faith leaders. There are no arrangements in place for accreditation for imams by Government.

Criminal Records

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how long was taken on average to complete a criminal records check in the most recent period for which figures are available; [224313]

(2) what proportion of criminal records checks took more than four weeks to complete in the most recent period for which figures are available. [224314]

Meg Hillier: Data concerning the average time taken to complete a disclosure are not collated by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

The CRB operates to a set of Published Service Standards (PSS) which is to issue 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days and 90 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days.

The performance figures for the financial year 2007-08 to March were 93.5 per cent. of enhanced disclosures issued within 28 days and 99.7 per cent. of standard disclosures issued within 10 days.

The most recent figures for August 2008 show 85.4 per cent. of enhanced disclosures issued within 28 days and 96.1 per cent. of standard disclosures issued within 10 days.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Criminal Records Bureau checks were subsequently found to be incorrect or to contain errors in relation to the presence or absence of evidence relating to criminality in each year since the Bureau's inception. [222982]

Meg Hillier: All the quality control procedures at the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) are geared to achieving the highest levels of accuracy. In addition, the CRB carries out a post disclosure accuracy check that analyses all aspects of the disclosure application and its issue. This check was introduced in 2007 and is based on a statistical sample of disclosure applications and from that sample it can be ascertained that the accuracy rate for 2006-07 is 99.94 per cent. and for 2007-08 is 99.98 per cent. No comparative data is available before these dates.

The CRB operates a central database in order to record transactions that occur during the disclosure process, where applicants' personal data provided on an application form are compared against information held by the police, the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Although the CRB has access to conviction and other information through this process, the police and the other data sources above are the data owners of material held on their respective databases and as such are responsible for the accuracy of information held thereon.

Departmental Internet

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid *(a)* Facebook, *(b)* Bebo and *(c)* other social networking sites for advertising the MyLifeMyID.org website; and how many hits the website received as a result of that advertising. [223330]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* We cannot provide details of the amount spent on each of those sites as the advertising was provided by a third party consolidator (uk.advertising.com) who ran the advert across a range of sites which indexed highly among the youth audience, and they do not supply clients with a breakdown of spend per site. However, as detailed in the MyLifeMyID Research document published on the Identity and Passport Service website:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-research.asp

the advertising cost—including Virtual Surveys management fee—was £25,750 (excluding VAT).

The number of people who clicked through from the adverts to a sign-up jump page which detailed the survey and encouraged them to sign-up to the forum while the advertising was running was 52,330. This works out as £0.49 per hit.

Entry Clearances: Taiwan

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she has concluded her consideration of whether reciprocal entry arrangements between the UK and Taiwan should be in place without the requirement for a tourist visa; and when she expects to announce her decision; [221421]

(2) if she will consider the merits of allowing Taiwanese citizens to enter the UK without requiring a tourist visa. [222333]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the Home Secretary's statement to Parliament of 10 July entitled Visa Waiver Test, which outlined the current status of the UK's first global review of its visa regimes. We expect to announce final decisions in early 2009.

EU Legislation

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222283]

Meg Hillier: Officials throughout the Home Office are involved in a full range of EU business. Those working specifically on EU business in its international directorate currently total 20. The UK Border Agency has an international policy directorate, which has a total of 20 staff working on European related matters.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* proposed and *(b)* adopted Justice and Home Affairs EU legislation the UK has (i) opted into and (ii) not opted into. [222319]

Meg Hillier: The list of EU Justice and Home Affairs measures in to which the UK has decided to opt in or not under the arrangements in the Protocol on the position of the UK and Ireland in relation to Title IV of the treaty establishing the European Community are provided in a table which has been placed in the House Library.

Eurojust

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what UK participation there will be in the expanded Eurojust programme. [214160]

Meg Hillier: The UK is participating in negotiations in the Justice and Home Affairs Council on a proposal to amend Eurojust's current legal base. That proposal aims to enhance the effectiveness of Eurojust by ensuring that it is provided with appropriate information to undertake its tasks and by providing clarity on the powers of National Members. There will be no changes as regards the powers, role and responsibilities of the UK National Member or his team. The UK will continue to participate actively in Eurojust's activities, which we believe assist domestic authorities in pursuing cross-border investigations and prosecutions.

Fixed Penalties: Young People

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she gives to police forces on the issue of fixed penalty notices to offenders under 16 years of age under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. [224334]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

Guidance on the issue of Penalty Notices for Disorder to 10-15 year olds can be found on the Home Office website at "Police Operational Guidance: Penalty Notices for Disorder for offences committed by young people aged 10 to 15".

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of DNA samples were removed and destroyed from the National DNA database following a request to do so from the person from whom the DNA was taken in each year since the National DNA database has been operating, broken down by police authority area; and if she will make a statement. [197286]

Meg Hillier: The number of DNA profiles produced from samples taken from individuals by police forces in England and Wales which have been removed, for all reasons, since 2002-03, and the number of profiles held on the National DNA database (NDNAD) (for England and Wales police forces) at the end of each year, are shown in table 1. Removals broken down by police force are shown in table 2.

Information is not available breaking down removals into the number resulting from requests from the person from whom the DNA sample was taken, and the number resulting from other reasons. Details of removals before 2002-03 are not available because the NDNAD does not retain historic information; in 2002, an NDNAD management information database was created, which captures details of all record 'transactions', including the removal of records, and enabled the collection of this information from this point. As some profiles are duplicates, the number of profiles and the number of individuals these represent are not the same.

Table 1: England and Wales

	Profiles removed	*Profiles held (approximate)*
2002-03	1,525	2,068,000
2003-04	321	2,350,000
2004-05	42	3,008,000
2005-06	136	3,478,000
2006-07	276	4,136,000
2007[1]	241	4,650,000

Table 2

Force	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007[1]*
Avon And Somerset	0	2	0	1	14	5
Bedfordshire	0	1	0	2	2	2
British Transport	4	1	0	3	6	1
Cambridgeshire	2	0	0	0	2	4
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	8	2
City of London	0	0	0	0	1	3
Cleveland	0	2	2	4	0	4
Cumbria	10	0	1	0	1	2
Derbyshire	6	1	0	0	2	1
Devon and Cornwall	19	1	0	1	8	2
Dorset	2	1	1	1	2	2
Durham	0	0	0	0	2	4
Dyfed-Powys	0	2	0	1	2	4
Essex	6	1	0	2	3	10
Gloucestershire	1	1	1	1	1	2
Greater Manchester	10	1	1	3	10	6
Gwent	62	55	0	1	1	1
Hampshire	49	22	0	5	8	4
Hertfordshire	10	0	1	1	12	3
Humberside	3	1	0	2	0	5
Kent	3	0	2	4	9	2
Lancashire	2	0	0	4	4	1
Leicestershire	1	3	0	1	4	1
Lincolnshire	1	0	0	6	0	6
Merseyside	8	2	4	2	2	1
Metropolitan	17	4	10	45	68	47
Norfolk	3	1	0	1	1	5
North Wales	2	1	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	3	1	0	1	4	4
Northamptonshire	1	0	0	0	1	0
Northumbria	6	2	2	4	9	13
Nottinghamshire	1	0	1	5	12	5
South Wales	4	0	0	5	1	1
South Yorkshire	42	0	0	5	4	12
Staffordshire	1	0	0	2	4	2
Suffolk	0	1	0	0	2	3
Surrey	56	0	0	0	8	11
Sussex	2	3	5	0	7	5
Thames Valley	27	0	1	1	5	5
Warwickshire	3	0	0	0	0	1
West Mercia	3	1	0	0	2	4
West Midlands	37	1	2	4	29	12
West Yorkshire	1,118	209	8	5	12	27
Wiltshire	0	0	0	13	3	6
Total	1,525	321	42	136	276	241

[1] April to 31 December.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many violent offence cases in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds metropolitan district and *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside the national DNA database was used to match suspects in each year since figures are available. [213354]

Meg Hillier: Information on the National DNA database (NDNAD) is recorded and held on the basis of the police force which took the DNA sample. It is not available by parliamentary constituency or by local government authority area.

The table gives details of the number of violent offences in which a crime scene sample profile has matched with one or more subject profiles in each of the years since the 2002-03 financial year, for Humberside police, North Yorkshire police, South Yorkshire police and West Yorkshire police. Figures are not available for the years prior to 2002.

'Violent offences' cover the offences murder/manslaughter, attempted murder, other suspicious death, wounding and less serious assault.

	Humberside	*North Yorkshire*	*South Yorkshire*	*West Yorkshire*	*Total*
2002-03	5	3	32	58	98
2003-04	13	2	22	37	74
2004-05	17	7	35	44	103
2005-06	29	10	42	81	162
2006-07	19	15	24	61	119
2007-08	22	9	39	53	123
2008-09 to date	10	3	19	28	60

Note:
Some of the offence codes used on the NDNAD cover more than one of the recorded crime classifications e.g. murder/manslaughter.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the prison population in England and Wales has a profile on the national DNA database. [219355]

Meg Hillier: The purpose of the National DNA database (NDNAD) is to match DNA profiles taken from individuals with those taken from crime scenes. It therefore holds only the information necessary for this function, and does not contain criminal records or information on whether those on it are in prison. There are, however, good reasons for believing that the great majority of the prison population has a profile on the NDNAD. Police forces have had the power to retain DNA taken from those convicted of recordable offences since the establishment of the DNA database in 1995. For the first few years this power was exercised in relation to more serious offenders, but from 2000 onwards additional funding was made available under the DNA Expansion Programme to make it standard practice to take samples from all offenders. Since the extension of powers to take DNA samples to all those arrested for recordable offences, taking a DNA sample in the custody suite has become routine procedure. In addition, two prisoner sampling projects have been undertaken, most recently in 2003, to take DNA from any prisoner who had not already been sampled, for example because they had been imprisoned before DNA sampling was widely practiced.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 454W, on genetics: databases, how many people have had their DNA profile removed from the national DNA database since January 2008. [220917]

Meg Hillier: Between 1 January and 31 August 2008, 148 subject profile records were deleted from the NDNAD under the exceptional case procedure (i.e. following a request to the chief officer of the responsible force from the person concerned). This covers records loaded by English and Welsh forces only.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults resident in the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire had their DNA recorded on police files in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area; [222293]

(2) how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults resident in Southampton had their DNA recorded on police files in each of the last five years. [222294]

Meg Hillier: Information held on the National DNA database (NDNAD) is available on the basis of the police force which added the DNA profile, not the address of the person sampled. Information is, therefore, not available on the number of residents of Southampton and the different local authorities in non-metropolitan Hampshire who have had a DNA profile added. Information is, however, available on the number of profiles added by Hampshire constabulary in the last five years, as shown in the following table. These do not necessarily relate to residents of Hampshire.

Hampshire constabulary

	Profiles loaded taken from:	
	Aged under 18 at time profile loaded	*Aged 18 and over at time profile loaded*
2003-04	3,465	10,565
2004-05	4,229	11,250
2005-06	4,751	16,007
2006-07	3,599	11,891
2007-08	4,606	15,664
2008-09 to date	1,668	5,699

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of upgrading of profiles from the SGM to the SGM Plus profiling system. It is estimated that 13.3 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD are replicates. However, this rate may vary between police forces, so figures for the number of individuals are not given for particular forces.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people had DNA samples stored on the National DNA database at the most recent date for which figures are available; [222730]

(2) how many people had a DNA profile on the National DNA database in each of the last 12 months, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* ethnic origin. [222731]

Meg Hillier: As at 17 September 2008, there were 4,991,871 subject profiles retained on the National DNA database (NDNAD) which had been added by English and Welsh police forces, which equates to an estimated 4,327,952 individuals. The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of upgrading of profiles.

Table 1 shows the number of subject profiles loaded to the NDNAD by English and Welsh police forces in each of the last 12 months, broken down by gender. 'Unassigned' means that no gender was recorded by the police officer who took the sample.

Table 2 shows the number of subject profiles loaded to the NDNAD by English and Welsh police forces in each of the last 12 months, broken down by ethnic appearance. Ethnic appearance is based on the judgment of the police officer taking the sample as to which of six broad ethnic appearance categories the person is considered to belong. 'Unknown' means that no ethnic appearance was recorded by the officer taking the sample.

Table 1

	2007				2008								
	Sep	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*[1]
Female	11,448	11,608	11,377	8,943	11,816	9,312	10,884	11,462	10,558	9,458	11,527	12,858	5,447
Male	33,749	34,241	33,623	26,776	37,005	28,911	32,733	34,117	30,785	28,324	34,193	38,117	15,777
Unassigned	127	105	137	107	144	97	139	161	116	125	144	224	73
Total profiles	45,324	45,954	45,137	35,826	48,965	38,320	43,756	45,740	41,459	37,907	45,864	51,199	21,297
Total individuals	39,296	39,842	39,134	31,061	42,453	33,223	37,936	39,657	35,945	32,865	39,764	44,390	18,464

[1] 1 to 16 September 2008

Table 2

	2007				2008								
	Sep	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*[1]
Unknown	2,733	2,813	2,444	1,853	2,521	1,568	1,551	1,672	1,668	1,447	1,784	2,129	1,048
Asian	3,134	3,311	3,377	2,635	3,383	3,090	3,183	3,361	3,128	2,824	3,793	3,716	1,484
Black	3,461	3,477	3,427	2,720	3,680	3,269	3,397	3,660	3,470	3,259	4,253	4,114	1,858
Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian	482	518	492	377	526	449	523	523	512	476	577	532	282
Middle Eastern	427	394	449	334	490	412	494	481	440	400	542	601	245
White North European	34,192	34,554	34,039	27,246	37,430	28,773	33,796	35,060	31,426	28,631	33,814	38,992	15,907
White South European	895	887	909	661	935	759	812	983	815	870	1,101	1,115	473
Total profiles	45,324	45,954	45,137	35,826	48,965	38,320	43,756	45,740	41,459	37,907	45,864	51,199	21,297
Total individuals	39,296	39,842	39,134	31,061	42,453	33,223	37,936	39,657	35,945	32,865	39,764	44,390	18,464

[1] 1 to 16 September 2008

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each *(a)* ethnicity, *(b)* age group and *(c)* sex in each ward of Greater Manchester have a DNA sample stored in the national DNA database. [223773]

Meg Hillier: Information held on the National DNA database (NDNAD) is available on the basis of the police force which added the DNA profile, not the address of the person sampled. Information is, therefore, not available on the number of people in each ward of Greater Manchester who have had a DNA profile added. Information is, however, available on the number of profiles added by Greater Manchester Police (GMP). These do not necessarily relate to residents of Greater Manchester. Tables 1-3 give figures for subject profiles on the NDNAD added by GMP, as at 17 September 2008, broken down by age, ethnic appearance and gender.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of upgrading of profiles. It is estimated that 13.3 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD are replicates. However, this rate may vary between police forces, so figures for the number of individuals are not given for particular forces.

Table 1 shows the number of subject profiles loaded to the NDNAD by GMP, broken down by ethnic appearance. Ethnic appearance is based on the judgment of the police officer taking the sample as to which of six broad ethnic appearance categories the person is considered to belong. 'Unknown' means that no ethnic appearance was recorded by the officer taking the sample.

Table 2 shows the number of such subject profiles broken down by current age, not the age when sampled.

Table 3 shows the number of such subject profiles broken down by gender. 'Unassigned' means that no gender was recorded by the police officer who took the sample.

Table 1

Ethnic Appearance	*Profiles*
Unknown	7,473
Asian	17,848
Black	14,517
Chinese, Japanese Or SE Asian	1,510
Middle Eastern	1,870
White - North European	210,850
White - South European	3,257
Total	257,325

Table 2

Current age	*Profiles*
Under 10	3
10-17	20,522
18-24	63,242
25-34	74,131
35-44	55,137
45-54	28,896
55-64	11,154
65 and over	4,225
Unknown age	15
Total	257,325

Table 3

Gender	*Profiles*
Female	56,573
Male	198,628
Unassigned	2,124
Total	257,325

Identity Cards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the number of identity cards that will be in circulation by the end of 2015; [219770]

(2) what estimate she has made of the percentage of the total eligible population that will have an identity card by 2016-17 under the March 2008 delivery plan; and what estimates were made under previous implementation plans. [219771]

Meg Hillier: The following table summarises the estimated volumes published in the May 2008 National Identity Cards Scheme Cost Report, combining the total volume of Identity Cards and Passports issued by the Identity and Passport Service to British and Irish Citizens resident in the UK.

Estimated passport and identity card products issued to British and Irish citizens resident in the UK

	Product volume (million)
2015-16	12.9
2016-17	13.1
2017-18	12.3

This is the most recently published information on product volumes that is currently available. Previous estimates of product volumes are included in National Identity Scheme Cost Reports that may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislative.asp

The Identity and Passport Service is currently developing the product choice offered to customers, as indicated in the National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan published in March 2008. The figures for the projected product volumes are currently being recalculated and will be published in due course.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the updated timetable for the roll-out of identity cards to UK citizens. [221390]

Meg Hillier: The most recent timetable for the rollout of the National Identity Scheme was published in the National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan in March 2008, an electronic copy of which may be found on the Identity and Passport Service website at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/national-identity-scheme-delivery-2008.pdf

The Identity and Passport Service is continuing to work with its partners and suppliers, along with responses received following the recent public consultation, in order to further define the detail of those plans and will publish the result of this work in due course. In addition an updated report on the estimated cost of the identity cards scheme over the next 10 years will be presented to Parliament and published in November 2008.

Identity Cards: Ireland

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of Irish citizens who will take up the UK identity card. [209972]

Meg Hillier: The National Identity Scheme will be available to people aged 16 years and above who legally reside or work in the UK. In the second half of 2009, we will start to issue cards to British and foreign nationals including European Economic Area citizens including Irish nationals working in sensitive roles or locations, starting with airport workers. Irish citizens who have dual British/Irish citizenship will be able to choose to apply for a UK citizens ID Card or an identification card which does not include citizenship and is not valid for travel.

From 2010 and 2011 we will offer identity cards on a voluntary basis to young people and those customers where there is the greatest personal benefit to them in their daily lives from having or using an identity card.

Specific data estimates for the number of Irish citizens who will volunteer to take up the UK identity card cannot be finalised at this point but will be kept under review.

National Identity Register

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what form the identity register to be used for the initial roll out of the National Identity Scheme to a district subset of the UK population for trialling of the enrolment and verification process will take. [219761]

Meg Hillier: The National Identity Register established for the issue of the first identity cards under the Identity

Cards Act 2006 starting in the second half of 2009 will need to comply with the same provisions under the Act as when the scheme is subsequently rolled out to allow for enrolment of high volumes of people.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1WS, on the citizen information project, for what reason the proposal to use the as an adult population register is not listed as part of the 2008 Delivery Plan or Cost Reports; and if she will make a statement on the implications for the population register proposal of initial roll out of the National Identity Scheme to a distinct subset of the UK population for trialling. [220246]

Meg Hillier: The written ministerial statement of 18 April 2006 referred to the recommendation of the Citizen Information Project that evaluated how public money could be saved, and services to citizens improved, by increasing the sharing of basic citizen information (contact details such as name, address and date of birth) across central and local Government.

The section "Enabling Joined up Public Services" of the National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/national-identity-scheme-delivery-2008.pdf

explains how the National Identity Register could eventually fulfil this function.

The National Identity Scheme will be introduced incrementally but will expand to have the capacity eventually to cover the majority of the UK population.

Passports

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passport applications were counter-signed by a magistrate or an individual claiming to be a magistrate in the last 12 months for which records are available; in how many cases the validity of the claim was checked; and in how many cases the claim was found to be false. [221781]

Meg Hillier: In the financial year 2007-08 there were 27,126 passport applications where the counter signatory was either a judge or a justice of the peace.

The Identity and Passport Service does not capture the level of data required in order to answer the remainder of this question.

Police: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department provided for each police force in each of the last 10 years. [223631]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 September 2008]:* The information requested is set out in the following tables.

Government grant[1,2]

£ million

Police authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
Avon and Somerset	134.80	139.75	142.56	146.96	152.58	158.87
Bedfordshire	50.14	51.90	51.97	54.24	59.89	61.51
Cambridgeshire	57.23	60.66	62.87	66.89	71.27	76.80
Cheshire	85.08	88.15	91.65	94.16	100.79	103.02
Cleveland	67.59	72.66	73.65	76.30	80.96	84.06
Cumbria	50.94	51.11	51.84	53.66	55.61	60.11
Derbyshire	81.06	83.35	87.29	94.24	101.56	106.46
Devon and Cornwall	132.97	141.09	146.70	152.88	163.44	167.49
Dorset	54.09	54.88	56.58	58.82	62.45	65.46
Durham	65.06	69.68	72.46	74.77	77.69	81.78
Dyfed-Powys	24.67	25.21	25.92	26.77	28.00	28.17
Essex	129.70	131.53	132.75	142.51	152.99	157.94
Gloucestershire	50.59	51.78	52.12	52.88	55.55	58.78
Greater Manchester	315.27	328.12	337.39	351.70	374.55	384.68
Gwent	31.82	33.27	34.85	35.83	37.23	37.64
Hampshire	150.38	158.77	162.66	169.64	178.39	185.16
Hertfordshire	76.02	77.23	82.42	92.89	100.61	102.27
Humberside	93.43	97.83	99.71	103.06	106.20	110.26
Kent	141.72	151.44	154.31	162.74	178.10	179.96
Lancashire	146.86	153.65	155.94	163.35	173.85	174.78
Leicestershire	83.88	85.27	87.84	90.60	94.60	101.21
Lincolnshire	52.23	51.13	53.30	56.43	60.34	60.97
Merseyside	207.64	213.25	215.31	220.65	235.53	241.29
Metropolitan[1]	1,610.26	1,633.26	1,658.78	1,601.10	1,731.70	1,838.70
Norfolk	65.65	68.10	69.95	74.20	81.58	86.60
North Wales	34.96	36.27	37.95	39.16	41.36	41.11
North Yorkshire	59.23	62.62	63.89	66.55	72.69	71.68
Northamptonshire	50.77	53.28	55.14	57.14	59.46	62.21
Northumbria	173.67	185.28	192.25	197.06	209.79	211.02
Nottinghamshire	104.73	108.06	110.75	113.91	123.97	129.84
South Wales	76.37	79.54	81.98	84.27	88.02	89.25

Government grant[1,2]

£ million

Police authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
South Yorkshire	141.47	147.75	152.90	159.24	167.09	168.77
Staffordshire	96.15	95.09	96.27	100.13	105.23	106.36
Suffolk	52.57	55.14	57.29	59.09	62.24	62.02
Surrey	75.60	67.61	67.61	83.09	83.35	87.48
Sussex	127.99	134.66	137.03	142.03	149.10	153.68
Thames Valley	171.15	181.27	184.64	193.02	210.13	219.41
Warwickshire	42.18	42.54	43.16	44.98	46.90	48.67
West Mercia	87.74	90.86	92.92	98.56	108.63	109.21
West Midlands	317.34	335.10	342.16	357.58	379.35	388.14
West Yorkshire	238.20	249.54	255.01	268.61	287.07	288.26
Wiltshire	52.08	52.87	53.84	57.20	60.89	60.78
England and Wales total	5,861.30	6,050.55	6,185.59	4,737.60	5,038.79	5,173.15

£ million

Police authority	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[4]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[5]	*2008-09*[5]
Avon and Somerset	173.99	175.19	183.81	185.92	184.21	194.47
Bedfordshire	66.83	69.22	73.11	74.15	76.21	79.48
Cambridgeshire	77.96	79.66	85.26	82.33	85.58	87.90
Cheshire	112.59	119.77	124.28	130.88	136.13	138.45
Cleveland	90.97	94.79	99.54	101.32	105.29	107.46
Cumbria	63.08	65.27	68.71	72.43	72.29	79.09
Derbyshire	111.23	114.88	119.38	117.32	119.81	123.27
Devon and Cornwall	174.26	180.29	189.16	190.95	199.38	203.75
Dorset	71.17	75.46	73.19	81.17	82.66	83.29
Durham	86.93	90.27	95.28	94.36	97.68	98.31
Dyfed-Powys	30.12	32.23	33.61	32.69	34.17	35.64
Essex	169.34	173.67	181.81	180.43	187.91	196.32
Gloucestershire	61.48	63.66	68.00	67.93	71.35	71.90
Greater Manchester	417.66	433.15	462.73	479.73	484.16	518.84
Gwent	40.90	43.29	44.44	44.27	45.70	46.07
Hampshire	197.87	208.08	239.16	222.35	221.75	227.05
Hertfordshire	108.85	114.58	117.84	121.12	127.33	130.65
Humberside	117.34	124.65	132.49	135.00	134.90	137.87
Kent	188.38	198.30	203.93	193.45	219.23	224.19
Lancashire	188 91	196.55	205.41	207.98	215.90	221.02
Leicestershire	107.59	111.45	118.17	124.81	126.03	129.42
Lincolnshire	64.98	68.22	71.17	66.54	72.47	71.10
Merseyside	267.38	269.90	279.85	276.08	287.30	291.72
Metropolitan[3]	1,923.90	1,983.50	1,928.50	2,019.00	2,115.40	2,162.26
Norfolk	90.79	94.37	99.27	100.08	102.25	103.16
North Wales	44.71	47.08	49.47	48.07	50.28	51.53
North Yorkshire	78.89	80.61	83.73	86.24	79.39	84.45
Northamptonshire	69.79	70.71	72.37	75.49	78.53	82.02
Northumbria	226.21	233.28	250.55	249.17	260.01	267.01
Nottinghamshire	136.54	142.04	148.94	143.48	145.55	149.74
South Wales	93.45	103.17	107.45	91.93	94.82	97.25
South Yorkshire	184.86	191.87	202.82	205.49	211.15	216.32
Staffordshire	112.87	117.62	122.43	122.05	126.77	129.76
Suffolk	69.57	71.81	74.76	73.73	75.57	77.24
Surrey	93.59	96.78	100.80	104.76	110.12	113.62
Sussex	168.05	180.99	180.95	156.10	189.14	193.09
Thames Valley	233.34	237.32	249.35	260.52	261.98	267.92
Warwickshire	51.91	53.90	56.16	54.57	56.91	59.77
West Mercia	114.12	117.77	122.50	126.05	131.49	134.71
West Midlands	415.20	433.31	466.12	471.41	487.88	509.25
West Yorkshire	310.30	329.12	347.12	345.62	348.95	384.82
Wiltshire	64.68	65.85	70.26	68.77	73.03	74.49

Police authority	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[4]	2006-07	2007-08[5]	£ million 2008-09[5]
England and Wales total	5,548.65	5,770.08	6,075.37	6,066.75	6,271.23	6,493.41

[1] Revenue funding includes all grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services), and includes formula grant and all specific grants.
[2] Welsh Government Grant includes Home Office Police Grant, floor funding and additional support provided to ensure Welsh Police Authorities receive at least a minimum increase in grant in line with English Authorities.
[3] The data for Metropolitan Police Authority from 2000-01 onwards is not available from DCLG as they are collected as consolidated data from GLA. Data used is compiled from Home Office data for allocated grants.
[4] In 2005-06 figures were adjusted for comparison purposes following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07 so are not directly comparable.
[5] 2007-08 and 2008-09 Government grant figures are budget figures.
Source:
DCLG—from English Police Authorities/WAG—from Welsh Police Authorities

Police: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents requiring police attendance were recorded in *(a)* the London borough of Newham, *(b)* the London borough of Hackney, *(c)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(d)* London in each of the last five years. [223529]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 September 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally. This is a matter for the commissioner of the Metropolitan police.

Rape

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many rapes were reported to police in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how many of these cases were recorded as involving excessive alcohol consumption by the victim or perpetrator. [223348]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The available information relates to the number of rape offences recorded by the police in England and Wales and are given in the tables.

Recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office deal solely with the numbers of offences recorded and detected by the police. Details on the circumstances of individual offences are not collected and it is therefore not possible to determine whether excessive alcohol consumption was a contributing factor.

The following findings on 'intimate violence' were taken from the British Crime Survey. The definition of serious sexual assault is defined within the survey as rape or assault by penetration, including attempts:

> Victims of serious sexual assault were asked whether they thought the person who assaulted them (where there was one offender) was under the influence of drink or drugs during the incident. 35 per cent. of victims of serious sexual assault thought the sole offender was under the influence of drink and 10 per cent. thought the offender was under the influence of drugs.
>
> Those who had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 were also asked if they themselves had been under the influence of drink or drugs on the most recent occasion of serious sexual assault. Around one-quarter said that they were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the last incident (26 per cent.) and 16 per cent. said that they had been unconscious or asleep when the incident took place. 5 per cent. of victims reported having been drugged by the offender during the incident.

Table 1: Number of rape offences recorded in England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Offence	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Rape of a female	7,132	7,809	7,929	9,002
Rape of a male	504	600	664	732
Total	7,636	8,409	8,593	9,734

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Number of rape offences recorded in England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2007-08

Offence	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Rape of a female	11,445	12,378	12,869	13,327	12,624	11,648
Rape of a male	850	894	1,144	1,116	1,150	1,006
Total	12,295	13,272	14,013	14,443	13,774	12,654

Notes:
1. The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.
3. Includes British Transport Police data from 2002-03 onwards.

Registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ensure that the hospital records of all patients who die in NHS hospitals are supplied to registrars before death certificates are issued. [222315]

Meg Hillier: Before a death can be registered the registrar for births and deaths must receive a medical certificate of cause of death (MCCD) completed and signed by the medical practitioner who attended the patient during their final illness. (If there is none, the death is reported to the coroner). The MCCD records the cause of death, the underlying causes and any other diseases, injuries etc. that contributed to the death.

The Government have announced a major reform of arrangements for death certification in England and Wales. The reforms will improve the quality and accuracy of death certification, introduce a single system of effective medical scrutiny applicable to all deaths that are not reportable to the coroner and provide improved information on cause of death to strengthen local clinical governance and public health surveillance.

At the heart of the reformed system will be a new role of medical examiner. As well as the obvious task of scrutinising MCCDs and authorising burial or cremation, the medical examiner will also support the training of junior doctors in completion of MCCDs and provide feedback on accuracy of certification locally.

Tobacco: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* confectioners and tobacconists and *(b)* other retailers have been found to be selling tobacco products to those under the age of 16 years in each year since 1997; how many offences of selling tobacco products to those under the age of 16 years have been recorded in each such year; how many (i) fines and (ii) cautions were issued in respect of such offences in each year; and what the average fine imposed was in each year. [223524]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 11 September 2008]:* Information on the number of recorded offences of retailers selling tobacco products to those aged under 16 years is not collected centrally. This is a summary offence and is not included in the police recorded crime statistics.

Statistics on the number of police cautions issued, the number of fines imposed and the average fines have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and are given in the table for 1997-2006. No information is collected centrally to distinguish between confectioners, tobacconists and other retailers.

Offenders[1] cautioned and fined for selling tobacco etc to persons under 16[2]

	Number of police cautions issued	Number of fines imposed	Average fine amount (£)
1997	5	90	238
1998	—	115	226
1999	3	90	237
2000	2	113	349
2001	1	74	301
2002	2	67	283
2003	—	82	322
2004	—	90	274
2005	2	56	328
2006	3	51	330

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.
[2] Children and Young Persons Act 1933 sec. 7 as amended by the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 sec. 1.
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he plans to establish new bail hostels in Wimbledon constituency; [221806]

(2) what discussions he had with the local authority before deciding to site a bail hostel in Wimbledon; [221807]

(3) how many bail hostels are managed by ClearSprings; [221808]

(4) how many bail hostels previously operated by ClearSprings have been closed; [221809]

(5) if he will take steps to ensure that local constituency hon. Members are consulted before decisions are taken regarding the siting of bail hostels in their constituencies. [222791]

Mr. Hanson: No bail hostels are being established in the constituency of Wimbledon. The Bail Accommodation and Support Service provides private, rented accommodation in small houses and flats with up to five people sharing, not hostels. The Director of Offender Management for London has identified a need for one three bedroom property in Merton and ClearSprings is seeking an appropriate property. When properties are identified ClearSprings consults the police, probation and local authority before proceeding. In Merton it has have consulted in relation to a property that was considered but not proceeded with and has held meetings with council officials and councillors. It is my practice to write to the relevant Member of Parliament when first a property is being readied for use in his/her constituency. At 29 September ClearSprings was providing 161 properties in England and Wales.

Bail: Warley

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases before Warley magistrates bail applications were opposed by the police but granted by the court in each of the last three years. [222519]

Maria Eagle: Data on bail applications collected centrally by my Department do not include information on whether an application for bail was opposed by the police or other parties to the proceedings. This information would have to be retrieved by inspecting individual court records which could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

Bailiwick of Jersey

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings he has held with representatives of the Bailiwick of Jersey in the last 12 months. [222964]

Mr. Wills: The Secretary of State has held no meetings with representatives of the Bailiwick of Jersey in the last 12 months, but I, as Minister responsible for the Crown Dependencies, met the Chief Minister and chief executive of Jersey on 3 December 2007.

British Constitution

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the retrospective applicability of legislation of constitutional significance, with particular reference to the application of provisions in a statute retrospectively from the date of the relevant Bill's Second Reading; and if he will make a statement. [221394]

Mr. Wills: In general, legislation (including constitutional legislation) does not have retrospective effect. Provisions in Acts normally come into force following the making of a commencement order bringing them into force,

unless earlier commencement is provided for in the Act itself. In a limited number of cases, a specific provision may have retrospective effect, for example, to correct an anomaly in the law which, if uncorrected, may adversely and unfairly affect individuals. Where legislative provisions are to have retrospective effect, they may depending on the circumstances, come into effect from the date on which notice of the measure is first given publicly (for example, certain tax provisions) or, in other cases, on a later date, such as the date on which the relevant Bill receives its Second Reading.

Building Democracy

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the annual cost of the Building Democracy grant scheme. [223829]

Mr. Wills: The estimated cost in 2008-09 of the Innovation Fund grant scheme promoted through the Building Democracy website is £150,000 (incl. VAT). Grants up to a value of £15,000 will be awarded through the scheme. The scheme will be subject to evaluation and no decisions have been made about possible funding in future years.

Community Orders

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether offenders' travelling time to and from community payback is counted within the number of hours set out in their community sentence. [223632]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Mr. Hanson) to the hon. Member for Enfield, Southgate (Mr. Burrowes) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W.

In general, offenders are expected to travel to unpaid work appointments in their own time. If, however, they live in a location that requires them to spend more than 30 minutes travelling in each direction, the time over 30 minutes is currently credited against their sentence, but the total amount of time credited in this way must not exceed 10 per cent. of their sentence. Once they have reported for work, any time spent travelling to, or between, work sites, is counted as part of their sentence. I am reviewing these arrangements.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have breached community payback or unpaid work equivalent conditions in each of the last three years; and of these how many received a *(a)* variation of their existing community sentence, *(b)* fine, *(c)* further community sentence, *(d)* custodial sentence of less than a month, *(e)* custodial sentence of between one to six months, *(f)* custodial sentence of between six months and one year and *(g)* custodial sentence of over one year. [223633]

Mr. Straw: Information to provide a complete answer is not gathered or kept centrally. However, information is available for the last three years on how many cases a community order with an unpaid work requirement or equivalent[1] was revoked for failure to comply; and what proportion that was of all such orders that terminated in that period. No information is available about resentencing in those cases.

[1] i.e. Community punishment order or community punishment and rehabilitation order (under pre Criminal Justice Act 2003 legislation.

	Number of unpaid work or equivalent orders revoked for failure to comply	*Percentage of all unpaid work or equivalent orders terminated*
2005-06	9,261	12.3
2006-07	12,190	14.3
2007-08	16,995	18.5

Constitutions: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has considered the merits of undertaking a review of academic research relating to the constitutional status of Cornwall. [222754]

Mr. Wills: No consideration has been given to undertaking a review of academic research relating to the constitutional status of Cornwall and the Government have no plans to undertake a review of this kind. Cornwall is an administrative county of England, electing MPs to the UK Parliament, and is subject to UK legislation. It has always been an integral part of the Union. The Government have no plans to alter the constitutional status of Cornwall.

Dangerous Driving

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of those found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving *(a)* did not have a current driving licence, *(b)* were banned from driving, *(c)* did not have insurance and *(d)* did not have a current MOT certificate in the latest period for which figures are available. [222080]

Maria Eagle: While the Department for Transport monitors details of road traffic fatalities, this information is not linked with details of any subsequent prosecutions.

The court proceedings data held by my Department cannot be used to answer this question directly since the information held on a defendant does not extend beyond the person's age, gender, ethnicity, the offences for which the person was prosecuted and the outcome for each offence. However part of the question can be answered on the basis of offence and outcome information.

In 2006 (latest available), there were 224 defendants found guilty of at least one offence of causing death by dangerous driving. Of these, as part of the same proceedings, five (2 per cent.) were convicted of driving while disqualified, 31 (14 per cent.) of driving while uninsured against third party risks and nine (4 per cent.) for both of these offences. 2007 data will be available towards the end of this year.

The Court Proceedings Database cannot separately identify the specific offence of driving a vehicle without a valid MOT certificate nor defendants who do not have a driving licence.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of those found guilty of death by dangerous driving had a previous conviction for dangerous driving in the last period for which figures are available. [222074]

Mr. Hanson: 233 offenders are recorded on the Police National Computer as having been found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving in England and Wales in 2007. Of these, 10 offenders (4 per cent.) had a previous conviction for dangerous driving. These figures have been derived from the police's administrative IT system, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Dangerous Driving: Sentencing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the maximum sentence for causing death by dangerous driving whilst under the influence of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* illegal drugs. [222079]

Maria Eagle: We strongly support the need for stiff penalties for bad drivers. We increased the maximum penalties for causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink and drugs from 10 to 14 years imprisonment in the Criminal Justice Act 2003. We also introduced new offences of causing death by careless driving and causing death by driving when unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured in the Road Safety Act 2006.

A defendant can also be charged with manslaughter if, for example, he was grossly negligent. This carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Sections 32 and 33 of the Road Safety Act 2006 make clear which alternative verdicts are available if a prosecution for manslaughter (in England and Wales) or culpable homicide (Scotland) is unsuccessful. This is to ensure that manslaughter will be charged where appropriate in the knowledge that, if unsuccessful, the lesser charge can be preferred.

We welcome the sentencing guidelines published in July by the Sentencing Guidelines Council on causing death by driving. They make it clear that an offence will be considered more serious if there is evidence of impairment caused by the consumption of alcohol or drugs, where the presence of drugs or alcohol is not a required element of the offence.

We have no plans for a further review at this stage.

Data Protection: Prosecutions

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prosecutions for *(a)* unauthorised computer access, *(b)* unauthorised modification of data, *(c)* obstructing the Information Commissioner, *(d)* unauthorised use of data, *(e)* other breaches of the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and *(f)* any other breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 were brought in each year since 2000; [223634]

(2) how many people convicted of *(a)* unauthorised computer access, *(b)* unauthorised modification of data, *(c)* obstructing the Information Commissioner, *(d)* unauthorised use of data, *(e)* any other breaches of the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and *(f)* any other breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 received (i) a fine, (ii) a community sentence, (iii) a custodial sentence and (iv) another disposal in each year since 2000. [223636]

Mr. Straw: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against, found guilty and a sentence breakdown for offences under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Computer Misuse Act 1990 in England & Wales from 2000 to 2006 is in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and a sentence breakdown for offences under the Data Protection Act 1998[1] and the Computer Misuse Act 1990, England & Wales, 2000 to 2006[2,3,4,5]

			2000				
			Breakdown of offenders sentenced				
Offence	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*
Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences	3	2	—	—	—	—	1
Unauthorised modification of computer material	8	4	1	—	1	—	3
Person obstructing the Information Commissioner in the course of his inspection or failing without reasonable excuse to give him any reasonable assistance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and a sentence breakdown for offences under the Data Protection Act 1998[1] and the Computer Misuse Act 1990, England & Wales, 2000 to 2006[2,3,4,5]

	2000						
			Breakdown of offenders sentenced				
Offence	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	33	24	—	3	20	1	—
Unauthorised access to computer material	8	9	—	3	4	2	—
Intentional obstruction of person in execution of duty, failure to give assistance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Summary Offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	52	39	1	6	25	3	4

	2001							
				Breakdown of offenders sentenced				
Offence	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Fully suspended sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Otherwise dealt with*
Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences	4	3	—	—	1	—	2	—
Unauthorised modification of computer material	12	19	1	2	9	1	5	1
Person obstructing the Information Commissioner in the course of his inspection or failing without reasonable excuse to give him any reasonable assistance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	24	11	1	10	—	—	—	—
Unauthorised access to computer material	9	9	1	2	5	—	1	—
Intentional obstruction of person in execution of duty, failure to give assistance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Summary Offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

2001

Offence	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conditional discharge	Breakdown of offenders sentenced: Fine	Community sentence	Fully suspended sentence	Immediate custody	Otherwise dealt with
Total	49	42	3	14	15	1	8	1

2002

Offence	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conditional discharge	Breakdown of offenders sentenced: Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody
Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences	6	5	—	—	2	3
Unauthorised modification of computer material	8	7	—	2	2	2
Person obstructing the Information Commissioner in the course of his inspection or failing without reasonable excuse to give him any reasonable assistance	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	24	14	1	13	—	—
Unauthorised access to computer material	4	2	—	1	1	1
Intentional obstruction of person in execution of duty, failure to give assistance	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Summary Offences	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	42	28	1	16	5	6

2003

Offence	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conditional discharge	Breakdown of offenders sentenced: Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody	Otherwise dealt with
Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences	9	3	1	1	—	1	—
Unauthorised modification of computer material	3	1	—	—	—	1	—

2003

Offence	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conditional discharge	Breakdown of offenders sentenced: Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody	Otherwise dealt with
Person obstructing the Information Commissioner in the course of his inspection or failing without reasonable excuse to give him any reasonable assistance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	22	13	2	10	—	—	1
Unauthorised access to computer material	7	1	—	—	1	—	—
Intentional obstruction of person in execution of duty, failure to give assistance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Summary Offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	41	18	3	11	1	2	1

2004

Offence	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conditional discharge	Breakdown of offenders sentenced: Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody	Otherwise dealt with
Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences	6	2	—	—	1	1	—
Unauthorised modification of computer material	10	7	1	2	3	—	1
Person obstructing the Information Commissioner in the course of his inspection or failing without reasonable excuse to give him any reasonable assistance	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	19	10	2	8	—	—	—
Unauthorised access to computer material	5	3	1	—	1	—	1
Intentional obstruction of person in execution of duty, failure to give assistance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

2004

Offence	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conditional discharge	Breakdown of offenders sentenced: Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody	Otherwise dealt with
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Summary Offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	44	22	4	10	5	1	2

2005

Offence	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conditional discharge	Breakdown of offenders sentenced: Fine	Community sentence	Fully suspended sentence	Immediate custody
Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences	11	7	3	—	4	—	—
Unauthorised modification of computer material	8	5	—	2	1	1	2
Person obstructing the Information Commissioner in the course of his inspection or failing without reasonable excuse to give him any reasonable assistance	3	3	—	3	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	7	6	—	6	—	—	—
Unauthorised access to computer material	5	4	1	3	—	—	1
Intentional obstruction of person in execution of duty, failure to give assistance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Summary Offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	34	25	4	14	5	1	3

2006

Offence	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conditional discharge	Breakdown of offenders sentenced: Fine	Community sentence	Fully suspended sentence	Immediate custody
Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences	5	4	—	—	1	—	3
Unauthorised modification of computer material	13	10	1	—	3	4	1

	2006						
				Breakdown of offenders sentenced			
Offence	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Fully suspended sentence	Immediate custody
Person obstructing the Information Commissioner in the course of his inspection or failing without reasonable excuse to give him any reasonable assistance	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	3	2	—	1	1	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc:—Triable Either Way Offences[1]	18	4	—	4	—	—	—
Unauthorised access to computer material	7	4	—	3	1	—	—
Intentional obstruction of person in execution of duty, failure to give assistance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using data for unauthorised purpose; disclosing data to unauthorised person etc.—Summary Offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	48	24	1	8	6	4	4

[1] One offence superceded the other—the offence descriptors are identical. These Triable Either Way offences cover all sections of the 1998 Data Protection Act except S54A and Sch. 9 P.12.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed those proceeded against as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendants was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

[5] The number of defendants sentenced in a particular year may exceed those found guilty, as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty and committed for sentence at the Crown court may be sentenced in the following year.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government Departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department and its predecessor have participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul flights. [221961]

Maria Eagle: In 2006, the then Department for Constitutional Affairs agreed to join the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). In the first year, 2006-07, it was confirmed with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) that this offsetting would be limited to air travel by Ministers and senior (board level) officials. For the year 2006-07, flights were only broken down into long haul and short haul. The distance travelled was 114639 km short haul which produced 34.39 tonnes of CO_2 emissions and 121459 km long haul which produced 61.22 tonnes of CO_2 emissions at a cost of £606.72.

The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007. For 2007-08, all official air travel, by Ministers and officials regardless of grade, has been included. For 2007-08, flights were broken down into domestic, short haul and long haul. For Ministry of Justice HQ, HM Courts Service and Tribunals Service, the distance travelled on: domestic flights was 1107594 km which produced 190.75 tonnes of CO_2 emissions; short haul was 68027 km which produced 19.34 tonnes of CO_2 emissions and long haul 99292 km which produced 22.86 tonnes of CO_2 emissions at a total cost of £2,308.49. The new NOMS agency will be putting into place a mechanism before the end of this financial year to enable payments to be made into the GCOF. HM Land Registry distance travelled on: domestic flights was 22286 km which produced 3.84 tonnes of CO_2 emissions; short haul was 41297 km which produced 11.74 tonnes of CO_2 emissions and long haul 159664 km which produced 36.76 tonnes of CO_2 emissions at a total cost of £518.63. The National Archives distance travelled on: domestic flights was 45012 km which produced 7.76 tonnes of CO_2 emissions; short haul was 79165 km which produced 22.5 tonnes of CO_2 emissions and long haul was 358070 km which produced 82.43 tonnes of CO_2 emissions at a total cost of £1,116.73.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether those staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first-class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [221968]

Maria Eagle: Those Ministry of Justice staff who are entitled to travel by air on business or first class are permitted to travel in cheaper class. Any consequent saving accrues to the Department, not them individually.

All official travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively. Copies of these are available in the House Library.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 240-41W, on departmental aviation, what information on the number and destination of flights is transferred to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund by his Department in order to calculate the carbon offset payments for his Department's flights. [222193]

Maria Eagle: The information transferred to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund is on the air miles travelled on long haul, short haul and domestic flights as required by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [221971]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown as follows.

Ministry of Justice HQ

	Location	Net internal area (sq m)
2006	102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ	34,868
2007	Part 2nd Floor, Carlton Tower, 34 St. Paul's St. Leeds	117.06

NOMS

	Location	Net internal area (sq m)
Non-custodial		
2008	Argyle House, Argyle Way, Stevenage SG1 2AP	1,165.34
2006	4 Mitre Buildings, West Square, Harlow CM20 1DR	856
Custodial	—	0

HMCS Estates

	Location	Net internal area (sq m)
2008	Regional Office, Greyfriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol, BS1 2NR	561
2007	Regional Office, Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Rydon Lane, Exeter, EX2 5JL	316

HMCS Estates

	Location	Net internal area (sq m)
2007	London and South East Regional Office, Rose Court, Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HS	2,038
2007	Wales regional Office, Churchill House, Churchill Way Cardiff, CF10 2HH	570
2007	Kent Area Directors Office, Gail House, 5 Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, ME15 6NB	998

Tribunal Service

	Location	Net internal area (sq m)
2008	Birmingham Hagley Rd	3,052
2007	Leicester Arnhem House (5th Floor)	750

Legal Services Commission

	Location	Net internal area (sq m)
2007	Floors 11, 12,and 13 Building 2, Exchange Tower, Harbour Exchange, London EC15	3,363.101
2007	Viking B8, Jarrow, Newcastle	6,720.35

Departmental Cleaning Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contracts his Department has with cleaning services providers; and what the hourly rate of pay for cleaners working in his Department is. [224094]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) does not have any contracts for cleaning services with *(a)* ISS, *(b)* ITS, *(c)* ICS or *(d)* GBM.

Cleaning services for the courts, tribunals and MoJ HQ buildings are contracted out. The current hourly pay rate ranges paid by contractors to their staff working within MoJ, are as follows:

	Pay range (£)
London and HQ	5.52-9.02
North East	5.52-8.25
North West	5.52-7.50
Midlands	5.52-7.50
South West	5.52-7.50
South East	5.52-10.00
Wales	5.52-8.58

In respect of National Offender Management Service: as part of the work to provide prisoners with skills to aid their resettlement and to reduce cost to the public purse, most cleaning within prisons is undertaken by prisoners. Their pay will depend on the individual establishment's rates of pay and on what level of the incentive or earned privilege scheme the prisoner is on.

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [221966]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice does not directly make any routine or systematic use of MOSAIC or ACORN data. However, officials have, on occasion, made limited use of ACORN data as part of internal modelling work to assess the likely impact of policy proposals.

It is possible that the Ministry of Justice or its agencies may have used MOSAIC or ACORN data indirectly, through work carried out on its behalf by consultants or contractors. However, this information could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223063]

Maria Eagle: Proven cases of gross misconduct are, by their very nature, the most serious disciplinary breaches. Staff who are proven to have committed gross misconduct are subject to dismissal.

The following information gives a breakdown of proven gross misconduct cases in the Department that have been concluded in the 12 month period ending on 31 July 2008, together with the total number of dismissals for each category:

	Number
Receipt of criminal conviction	8
Threat to public/security	14
Threat to staff	8
Threat to prisoners	4
IT abuse	6
Fraud	4
Falsifying records	4
Failure to report arrest	3
Other	12

Each case was dealt with in accordance with published departmental policy and procedures, concluding in dismissal. As these matters relate to individual members of staff the details are considered to be confidential.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 680W, on departmental home working, if he will make it his policy to collate and maintain central records of home working by his Department's staff. [222536]

Mr. Wills: There is no requirement to maintain records of home working arrangements centrally. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is introducing a shared services system by the end of 2010. As part of that project it is being considered whether it would be practical and cost effective to collate and maintain central records of MoJ staff working at home. In the interim it would not be possible to do so without disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what types of data have been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [221969]

Maria Eagle: My Department has not received any requests for information directly arising from the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations. However, we currently have data sharing arrangements in place with the suppliers listed as follows for the services indicated:

Smee and Ford—charitable bequests

Courtel—Crown court listing

Registry Trust Ltd. (RTL)—Registry of Judgments, Orders and Fines.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221477]

Maria Eagle: My Department monitors the cost of its mail services using a combination of financial planning/forecasting, budget monitoring, analysis of management information from suppliers and regular contract review meetings. In addition to this, Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) has recently commenced a postal benchmarking exercise across all HMCS sites to identify any disparity of postage spend across their estate.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221347]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice carries out a wide range of activities which allow Ministers and officials to listen to and understand the views of the public and stakeholders. My answer on 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 842W, to the hon. Member for Dundee, East (Stewart Hosie) set out the main activity undertaken over the last three years and the following table sets out the main activities which have taken place since then. It is not possible to provide in-house costs for all listening exercises and the data is therefore limited to activity where external organisations have been contracted to undertake the work.

2008

Name exercise/area	*Purpose*	*Private contractor*	*Amount paid to private contractor (£)*
Consultation with seven Local Criminal Justice Board community consultation and advisory groups.	Develop and deliver a consultation exercise to establish the achievements, barriers and challenges for LCJB Advisory Groups in their working with Local Criminal Justice Boards. Develop a conference report and recommendations and develop guidance on best practice for LCJB community consultation and advisory Groups.	Northern Complainant Aid Fund Training and Consultancy contracted by Durham Local Criminal Justice Board on behalf of the Race, Confidence and Justice Unit, OCJR.	21,000

2008

Name exercise/area	Purpose	Private contractor	Amount paid to private contractor (£)
Stakeholder Engagement Seminar for the 2008-11 CJS Strategic Plan.	Seek the views of stakeholders on 2008-11 CJS Strategic Plan.	PA Consulting Group	2,400
Victim of Crime leaflet.	Facilitate a number of focus groups to improve the effectiveness of the leaflet. This included victims of crime and front line practitioners and providing feedback.	Burns and Co	39,245

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the differences are between citizens' summits and citizens' juries. [223069]

Mr. Wills: The discussion paper "A National Framework for Greater Citizen Engagement" published in July 2008 sets out what the Government see as the main differences between the two mechanisms. These are:

Size: citizens' juries are likely to involve 50-100 participants. Citizens' summits should involve large groups of around 500 or more to provide a more representative sample of public opinion;

Result: recommendations from a summit would be put to Parliament for consideration, along with a Government statement on the proposed way forward, while recommendations from juries would require a Government response; and

Coverage: the Government envisage that summits would be limited to national issues where there is a compelling case for large scale deliberation, while juries might be used as part of the policy development process, both national and locally.

We are currently seeking views on these proposals.

Departmental Records

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to adopt a principle of data minimisation in the information the Government collect and hold on citizens. [222930]

Mr. Wills: The processing of all personal data by private companies and public authorities must be in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

The data protection principles are predicated on, among other things, a requirement to ensure that data collected and processed is adequate, relevant, not excessive and not kept for longer than is necessary.

The Government will also consider the recommendations in the Data Sharing Review published by Richard Thomas and Dr. Mark Walport, and will announce in the autumn what further measures they will take to strengthen the protection of personal data.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 873W, on departmental retirement, how many requests to work beyond the standard retirement age have been received by his Department in respect of *(a)* the former Department of Constitutional Affairs, *(b)* HM Prison Service and *(c)* the National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform. [222437]

Maria Eagle: Such requests are dealt with at a local business level and considered on an individual basis. As a consequence, information on the number of applications and the number of successful applications for working beyond the standard retirement age is not held centrally and to collate this would incur disproportionate costs.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average delay before offenders convicted of offences of domestic violence or abuse commenced integrated domestic abuse programmes was in each probation area in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [224445]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the average number of weeks that elapse from the date of sentence for offences of violence or abuse to the commencement of domestic violence programme requirements in probation areas for 2005-06 to 2007-08. Prior to commencement on the core programme all offenders are required to complete pre-programme work.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Average number of weeks that elapse from the date of sentence to the commencement of domestic abuse programme requirement in probation areas 2005-06 to 2007-08

Probation area	2005-06[1]	2006-07	2007-08
Avon and Somerset	37.7	30.8	16.6
Bedfordshire	5.3	14.7	14.6
Cambridgeshire	30.8	23.7	12.8
County Durham	34.6	31.3	24.0
Cumbria	34.8	33.8	26.6
Derbyshire	21.2	16.6	7.3
Devon and Cornwall	21.4	18.4	12.4
Dorset	12.5	21.6	10.6
Dyfed-Powys	9.5	15.9	10.1
Essex	31.4	46.0	35.9
Gloucestershire	10.2	9.2	8.1
Gwent	19.6	10.7	10.6
Hampshire	17.5	15.0	11.6
Hertfordshire	36.9	29.4	18.9
Humberside	20.7	22.0	9.4
Kent	16.1	14.9	10.8
Lancashire	24.2	25.3	18.1
Leicestershire and Rutland	31.1	21.9	15.2
Lincolnshire	23.7	18.5	11.9

Average number of weeks that elapse from the date of sentence to the commencement of domestic abuse programme requirement in probation areas 2005-06 to 2007-08

Probation area	2005-06[1]	2006-07	2007-08
London	16.3	18.8	11.1
Merseyside	27.8	30.8	29.8
Norfolk	19.8	24.8	12.6
North Wales	29.2	23.3	14.2
Northants	11.2	14.0	9.4
Northumbria	41.7	39.0	27.5
North Yorkshire	15.4	16.0	12.4
Nottinghamshire	8.7	8.3	7.7
South Wales	23.0	11.1	5.6
South Yorkshire	60.3	39.0	15.1
Staffordshire	24.9	13.4	14.3
Suffolk	15.3	15.0	9.1
Surrey	12.2	11.0	7.8
Sussex	19.8	15.9	11.5
Teesside	28.6	32.7	28.7
Thames Valley area	37.9	31.3	22.8
Warwickshire	11.3	22.2	42.7
West Mercia	16.0	18.4	16.4
West Midlands	28.5	33.3	12.8
West Yorkshire	20.1	18.7	14.4
Wiltshire	14.9	21.2	14.1

[1] Full year data are unavailable prior to this period. Data are not available for Cheshire or Manchester probations areas; Figures do not account for pre-programme work done by the Offender Manager

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [221962]

Mr. Wills: My right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has the use of Dorneywood as an official residence. The Chancellor and the Trustees have made Dorneywood available to other Ministers to use for official engagements. Since September 2007, the Commons Chief Whip, the Leader of the House of Lords and Treasury Ministers have made use of Dorneywood for official engagements.

The Ministry of Justice has not used Dorneywood for any official engagements in the last 12 months.

Driving Offences: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* fined for speeding in each London borough in each year since 2000; and what proportion of those offences were detected using speed cameras. [221892]

Maria Eagle: Available information on speed limit offences within the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas combined from 2000 to 2006 (latest available) is provided in the following tables. 2007 data should be available later in the autumn of this year.

Data is only available data at police force area level.

Number of written warnings issued[1], court imposed fines[2] at magistrates courts[3] and fixed penalty notices issued[4] for speed limit offence[5], within London[6], 2000-06

Number of offences

	2000			2001			2002			2003		
Offence type	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued*	*Written warnings*	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued*	*Written warnings*	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued*	*Written warnings*	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued*	*Written warnings*
All speed limits	8,432	55,196	33	8,941	59,125	23	8,090	58,116	14	8,217	85,077	35
of which:												
Detected by camera	2,232	44,092	0	4,504	52,144	0	5,087	54,053	2	4,504	77,754	10
Percentage detected by camera	26.5	79.9	0	50.4	88.2	0	62.9	93.0	14.3	54.8	91.4	28.6

Number of offences

	2004			2005			2006		
Offence type	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued*	*Written warnings*	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued*	*Written warnings*	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued*	*Written warnings*
All speed limits	8,436	104,920	0	10,561	136,701	3	6,394	107,571	1
of which:									
Detected by camera	4,464	104,330	0	6,847	132,168	0	2,627	103,818	0
Percentage detected by camera	52.9	99.4	0	64.8	96.7	0	41.1	96.5	0

[1] Written warnings (including formal cautions).
[2] May include cases where fixed penalty was issued and not paid and consequently taken to court.
[3] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[4] Covers tickets paid where there is no further action.
[5] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1964 ss. 16, 81, 64, 66, 88 and 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926—byelaws made there under.
[6] Metropolitan and City of London police force areas combined.
Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Written warnings may also be under-reported.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, if is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221839]

Mr. Wills: The information requested to give a complete answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost as it is not held centrally nor in common format.

The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007. Contracts held with EDF for the former parts of the Department for Constitutional Affairs were for supply of gas prior to November 2005, post November 2005 expenditure was for the supply of electricity on sites with a maximum demand greater than 100 kVA (kilovolt amp (one thousand volt amperes)). From 2005 figures shown include HM Courts Service and from 2006 figures also include the Tribunals Service. The amount paid to EDF (including VAT) is:

	Amount paid to EDF (£)
2001-02	0
2002-03	[1]1,410,351
2003-04	1,403,316
2004-05	2,027,000
2005-06	10,007,169
2006-07	12,397,035
2007-08	15,890,347

[1] Contract started in 2002

Contracts held with EDF for HM Prison Service (HMPS) were for the supply of electricity on sites with a maximum demand greater than 100 kVA (kilovolt amp (one thousand volt amperes)). The amount paid to EDF (including VAT) by HMPS for each of the last three financial years is:

	Amount paid to EDF (£)
2005-06	19,455,146
2006-07	28,694,051
2007-08	22,981,574

The accounting practices changed for the financial year of 2005-06, therefore HMPS will only be able to provide prior year data at a disproportionate cost.

Contracts held with EDF for The National Archives were for the supply of electricity. The amount paid to EDF (including VAT) by The National Archives is:

	Amount paid to EDF (£)
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	[1]783,078
2006-07	1,144,845
2007-08	937,709

[1] Contract began June 2005.

Elections: Fraud

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 9-11WS, on consultation on weekend voting, what the evidential basis is for the statement that there is no evidence that overall levels of fraud are increasing in elections. [223070]

Mr. Wills: The Electoral Commission's report "Allegations of electoral malpractice in England and Wales 2000 to 2006", gives details of allegations of electoral malpractice. The report found that between 2000 and 2006 there were 402 allegations of offences under the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1983 (RPA offences include tampering with nomination papers, making false declarations as to election expenses, bribery, treating, undue influence and personation offences). A breakdown of the figures is set out as follows:

	Number of allegations
2000	50
2001	66
2002	59
2003	90
2004	59
2005	59
2006	19
Total	402

The figures show that the number of allegations reached a peak in 2003 and has since declined.

Further, the Electoral Commission's report "Further analysis of CPS files on allegations of electoral malpractice in England and Wales, 2000 to 2006", gives details of prosecutions for electoral malpractice. The report found that there were 23 convictions for RPA offences between 2000 and 2006. Though convictions do not necessarily occur in the same year that proceedings are initiated, the information published with the report shows that the number of convictions relating to RPA offences in the period 2000 to 2006 peaked at 11 in 2001, and the number of convictions has since declined.

The Electoral Commission's separate reports on the introduction of absent voting personal identifiers in England and Wales and on the May 2007 local government elections note that the introduction of personal identifiers for postal voters has had a positive impact on the safety and security of the electoral system, and that at the 2007 elections the scale and volume of allegations of offences were both considerably down on 2006. More recently, the Electoral Commission concluded in its report on the May 2008 local elections in England that the available information suggests that the scale and volume of allegations of offences during the elections in May 2008 were down on 2007.

Elections: Parish Councils

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what dispensations are granted to parish and town councils to enable them to hold elections without issuing polling cards to the electorate. [222663]

Bridget Prentice: Parish and town councils have the discretion to decide whether or not a poll card should be issued for an election when the poll is not combined with the poll at another election. A parish or town council's decision may be based on a number of local factors such as the size of the electorate, the anticipated turnout and whether an election is likely to be contested.

If poll cards are required, parish or town councils must request the returning officer to issue official poll cards for that election nineteen days prior to the date of the poll.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 902-3W, on the electoral register, which local authorities *(a)* do and *(b)* do not (i) send the annual canvas form more than once to non-respondents, (ii) make house-to-house enquiries of non-respondents and (iii) inspect all records which an electoral registration officer is permitted to inspect; and if he will make a statement. [222760]

Bridget Prentice: Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act") placed a new duty on Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register, including sending the annual canvass form more than once and making house to house enquiries and inspecting records the ERO is permitted to inspect. It is for the ERO to decide on the most appropriate steps to ensure that the electoral register is as complete and accurate as possible.

Government do not collect data on the extent to which individual local authorities carry out each of these activities. However, the 2006 Act makes provision for the Electoral Commission to introduce new performance standards for EROs. The Electoral Commission has recently developed these standards and, following public consultation, the final standards were published on 21 July 2008. A copy has been laid before the House. The performance standards framework is intended to allow a picture to be built up of the delivery of electoral services across Great Britain, including electoral registration.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to extending the arrangements for completion of the electoral register in force in Northern Ireland to the rest of the UK. [224529]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to the principle of individual registration. However, this would be a far-reaching reform, and it would need to be undertaken with great care, both to make sure a new system is robust, and to ensure that it properly tackles the problem of under-registration. As part of any change the Government would clearly wish to consider carefully the experience of individual registration in Northern Ireland.

Electoral Register: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 473W, on the electoral register: databases, why the CORE service will not apply to Northern Ireland. [222776]

Bridget Prentice: Part I of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, which makes provision for CORE, applies to the whole of the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland has a different system of electoral registration from the rest of the UK, and the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland provides a voter registration service there. In light of these differences, we are currently considering the inclusion of Northern Ireland in the CORE Scheme.

General Elections

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the marginal cost of holding general elections at weekends. [222255]

Mr. Wills: We currently estimate that the additional cost of holding a general election on one day of the weekend could be at least an additional £38 million, rising to approximately £58 million if an election were held across both Saturday and Sunday. These figures are based on the cost of a general election, and involve a number of assumptions about how the elections would be run. We expect that the consultation will provide additional information to allow a more accurate assessment of cost to be made.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 957W, on home information packs, (1) how many of the 20 properties that were marketed with home information packs included a voluntary home condition report; [223013]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of one of the 20 home information packs that were produced; [223015]

(3) what the cost, including value added tax, was of each home information pack. [223016]

Maria Eagle: None of the 20 properties marketed with home information packs included a voluntary home condition report.

A copy of one of the 20 home information packs (HIPs) will be placed in the Library electronically. (The HIP for each residential property disposed of is available to the general public when it goes on sale.)

The cost of producing each of the 20 HIPs ranged from £299.00 plus VAT to £560.00 plus VAT.

Housing: Prices

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate the Land Registry made of the average house price in London in *(a)* April 2006, *(b)* April 2007 and *(c)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [222928]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry's estimate of average house prices in the Greater London area for the periods referred to are as follows:

Period	*Average house price (£)*
April 2006	286,502
April 2007	328,481
August 2008	336,620

These figures are taken from Land Registry's house price index, which is available free of charge and published monthly. Land Registry also provides quarterly property price reports calculated in a different way for which a fee is charged.

Limitation of Actions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 389W, on limitation of actions, whether the issues to be resolved include a further examination of the limitation period between the dates of the offence and of the application for a legal remedy; when he expects the examination of the outstanding issues to be resolved; when he expects to make the announcement on the way forward; and if he will make a statement. [222504]

Bridget Prentice: Preparations are still ongoing for a consultation on a draft Bill to implement the Law Commission's recommendations to reform the law of limitation. The consultation will take full account of the ruling by the House of Lords in 'A v. Hoare and others' including the exercise of the court's discretion to extend the limitation period and the way in which the claimant's 'date of knowledge' is defined in abuse cases. I am unable to say when these preparations will be complete or when I will make a further announcement on the way forward. However, the Draft Legislative Programme, which was published on 14 May, announced that the limitation proposals could be included in a Civil Law Reform Bill which may be published in draft by Easter 2009. An announcement about the final legislative programme is expected to be made in the Queen's Speech to Parliament in December.

Magistrates Courts

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates courts there were in each local authority area in England and Wales in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [222787]

Maria Eagle: The information requested detailing the magistrates courts in each local authority district and unitary authority in England and Wales in *(a)* April 1996 and *(b)* July 2008 has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Courts Act 2003 gave responsibility of managing magistrates courts to the Lord Chancellor. Up until 1 April 2005, magistrates courts were the responsibility of locally managed magistrates courts committees who were statutorily independent.

Magistrates: Personation

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions were brought against individuals fraudulently claiming to be magistrates in each of the last 10 years. [221817]

Mr. Straw: Such instances are very rare. My Department are unaware of any prosecutions in the last 10 years for fraudulently claiming to be a magistrate.

Magistrates: Warley

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates there are on the Warley magistrates' bench; and how many live in postcode areas *(a)* B65, *(b)* B66, *(c)* B67, *(d)* B68 and *(e)* B69. [222523]

Mr. Straw: There are 133 magistrates currently serving on the Warley bench:

(a) eight live in postcode area B65

(b) two live in postcode area B66

(c) 14 live in postcode area B67

(d) 15 live in postcode area B68

(e) 12 live in postcode area B69

82 magistrates live in other postcode areas.

Members: Correspondence

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for St. Albans of 3 June 2008 on the provision of information on court proceedings to local newspapers. [221404]

Maria Eagle: I replied to the hon. Member on 30 July.

Mortgages: Arrears

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions his Department has had with the Civil Justice Council on their proposed pre-action protocol on mortgage arrears; and if he will make a statement. [222393]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice and the Civil Justice Council has held regular meetings, where the pre-action protocol for mortgage arrears was discussed. Officials attended the Housing and Land Committee of the Civil Justice Council on the following occasions:

2 November 2006
10 January 2007
26 April 2007
8 October 2007
22 January 2008
7 May 2008
28 July 2008
10 September 2008

Officials also attended a meeting with the Council of Mortgage Lenders on 23 May, where the content of their consultation response was discussed.

Copies of all consultation responses have been copied to departmental officials.

National Probation Service for England and Wales

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Probation Association on the future structure of the National Probation Service. [222302]

Mr. Hanson: A comprehensive review of the NPS structure has been undertaken. As part of this process informal briefings between representatives of the Probation Association and the Change Programme Director have taken place.

National Probation Service for England and Wales: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for the National Probation Service for 2008-09 is; and what the projected budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are. [224447]

Mr. Hanson: The budgets issued to Probation Boards and Trusts for 2008-09 are £914 millions (resource) and £3 millions (capital). Budgets have not yet been agreed for 2009-10 or 2010-11.

National Probation Service for England and Wales: ICT

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost of rolling out the Delius IT system to all probation areas in England and Wales. [224448]

Mr. Hanson: The cost of rolling out the OMNI (Offender Management National Infrastructure) IT system to all probation areas in England and Wales from 2006 through to completion in 2010 is estimated a £65.7 million.

Offenders: Employment

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to provide incentives to employers to train or employ former offenders as part of resettlement programmes. [221908]

Mr. Hanson: My Department attaches great importance to improving the skills and employment outcomes of offenders and is working in partnership with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to implement the Reducing Re-Offending through Skills and Employment: Next Steps action plan.

Engaging with employers to work with offenders is a key part of this plan. Many employers are delivering training workshops for offenders in custody with support from the National Offender Management Service, the Learning and Skills Council and Jobcentre Plus.

Many employers are also delivering training and offering employment opportunities to offenders on release and in the community. DIUS is funding Train2Gain which is an incentive to employers to improve the skills of their workforce and DWP has introduced many programmes, such as the New Deal, Progress2Work and Progress2Work-LinkUP, which are designed to incentivise employers to work with disadvantaged groups, including offenders.

The Corporate Alliance for Reducing Re-Offending will support all of this work through employers who are already engaged with offenders making the case to other employers.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what support his Department provides to local authorities in resettling former offenders, with particular reference to the provision of housing and employment advice. [221907]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice supports local authorities via partnership arrangements. The National Offender Management Service works with them to resettle offenders. Over 130 prisons operate housing advice and support services. Resettlement begins on reception into custody; local prisons in England and Wales assess the housing needs of prisoners to help prevent future homelessness. A strong partnership with Jobcentre Plus, with advisers working in many prisons, provides employment advice. Offender managers work with local authority staff to protect the public and reduce the risk of re-offending. Managing an offender's risk of harm is paramount; probation has a key partnership role in ensuring that the needs of victims and offenders are addressed, including through multi-agency public protection arrangements and the supporting people programme. Resettlement support is also a priority for offenders managed under local prolific and other priority offender schemes.

In 'community payback' work projects across the country, probation works with local authorities to source work for offenders, with training arranged by probation and their learning providers. For example Teesside probation's project with the local authority guarantees interviews and opportunities for successful offenders to work in council grounds maintenance.

We aim to improve local performance through a range of public sector agreements including safer communities, drugs and socially excluded adults which bring together relevant agencies at national, regional and local levels. Our proposals in the recent Policing Green Paper "From The Neighbourhood To The National: Policing Our Communities Together" to strengthen arrangements for Crime and Disorder Reduction

Partnerships will make probation a responsible authority and include reducing re-offending as a partnership duty.

Offensive Weapons: Yorkshire and the Humber

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted for offences relating to the illegal possession of knives in a public place in the Humberside police area in each year since 1997. [222785]

Mr. Straw: Court proceedings data on convictions for illegally carrying knives for Humberside police force area from 1997 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants who were convicted at all courts for illegally carrying knives, in Humberside police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2]

	Over 18 years of age	Under 18 years of age	Total
1997	36	7	43
1998	39	6	45
1999	53	12	65
2000	39	16	55
2001	31	15	46
2002	52	17	69
2003	55	10	65
2004	92	14	106
2005	92	23	115
2006	90	35	125

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Office of the Public Guardian: Manpower

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of staff the Office of the Public Guardian were employed to process applications for lasting power of attorney in *(a)* October 2007 and *(b)* June 2008. [221815]

Bridget Prentice: Since the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in October 2007 the Public Guardian is responsible for registration of both enduring powers of attorney and lasting powers of attorney. In October 2007 there were 36 members of staff at the Office of the Public Guardian to process applications to register powers of attorney. In June 2008 there were 92 staff to process applications to register powers of attorney.

Parental Compensation Orders

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* mothers and *(b)* fathers were issued with a parental compensation order in respect of a child aged under 10 years in each of the last two years, broken down by age of child. [221796]

Mr. Hanson: The power to issue parental compensation orders has been piloted in 10 local authority areas. No orders have been reported to date.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2028W, on political parties: finance, whether his Department plans to publish informal guidance on the definition of campaign spending. [224524]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice has no plans to publish guidance on this issue.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners aged (i) over 21, (ii) between 18 and 21 and (iii) under 18 remain in custody having completed their sentence; and what the reason for such post-sentence detention is in each case. [224010]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. There are a number of reasons why an individual may remain in custody beyond the end of a sentence of imprisonment, these include for example a new remand in custody warrant, contempt of court order and an immigration detention warrant.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to extend voting rights to sentenced prisoners in England and Wales. [222253]

Bridget Prentice: The judgment in the case of Hirst *v.* UK requires the Government to reconsider their policy of a blanket ban on the voting rights of convicted prisoners. That requirement is a consequence of a judgment in the European Court of Human Rights and is something that would need to be implemented in the UK even if the Human Rights Act was not in place.

In response, the Government undertook a first stage consultation which concluded in March 2007. However, since that point the context for the debate about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and in particular the exercise of the franchise, in the United Kingdom has changed significantly following the launch of the Governance of Britain Green Paper and publication of the Goldsmith Review.

The Government remain committed to carrying out a second, more detailed public consultation on how voting rights might be granted to serving prisoners, and how far those rights should be extended. But we consider it essential that any changes to the law to extend the franchise to those held in custody are considered in the context of the wider development of policy on the franchise and the rights that attach to British citizenship.

Prisons

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the maximum prison population was in each of the last 10 years. [222956]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows the highest prison population in each of the last 10 years with the

date on which it was recorded, based on the published weekly figures for the total held in prison establishments in England and Wales and in police cells under Operation Safeguard each Friday (and Maundy Thursday prior to 2007).

	Population	*Date*
1997	63,973	Friday 5 December 1997
1998	66,513	Friday 31 July 1998
1999	66,169	Friday 19 November 1999
2000	66,172	Friday 18 August 2000
2001	68,433	Friday 30 November 2001
2002	73,033	Friday 25 October 2002
2003	74,452	Friday 21 November 2003
2004	75,485	Thursday 8 April 2004[1]
2005	77,774	Friday 21 October 2005
2006	80,174	Friday 1 December 2006
2007	81,547	Friday 16 November 2007

[1] Maundy Thursday

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many violent offences committed by prisoners on other prisoners in each of the last five years resulted in *(a)* the prisoner being dealt with through the prison's internal disciplinary procedure, *(b)* a police investigation and no further action and *(c)* a police investigation and charges brought; [224227]

(2) how many violent offences were committed by prisoners against other prisoners in each of the last five years, broken down by offence. [224228]

(3) how many prisoners were *(a)* charged, *(b)* convicted and *(c)* sentenced for violent crimes committed whilst in custody in each of the last five years. [224232]

Mr. Hanson: The term 'offence' refers to police and Crown Prosecution Service processes and it is not used by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). The nearest equivalent to 'violent offences' in NOMS data is incidents of assault.

Information on incidents of assault is set out in the following table but is subject to important qualifications. Assault data covers a range of behaviour and may include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact incidents and allegations. Information on assault incidents may involve more than one assailant or more than one victim. In a proportion of incidents only the victim is known.

The Prison Service Incident Reporting System processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide an indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute.

Prisoner on Prisoner Assault	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Adjudication Recorded	7003	7235	8684	9201	9533
Mid year population	73,657	74,488	76,190	77,982	80,205
Rate (Percentage)	10	10	11	12	12

Information on action taken by the police, including whether or not charges result, is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following table contains the data held on prisoner on prisoner assaults that have been reported to the police.

Prisoner on prisoner assaults reported to the police

Prisoner on prisoner assaults	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Reported to police	791	695	834	761	739
Mid year population	73,657	74,488	76,190	77,982	80,205
Rate (Percentage)	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9

Notes:
1. The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents.
2. The 2007 figures do not include the three prisons (Albany, Camphill and Parkhurst) where the incident recording has transferred to the separate NOMIS system.

The nearest equivalent to 'violent offences' is incidents of assault. Central data on incidents of assault cannot be broken down into incident types. The following table contains the data held on prisoner on prisoner assault incidents.

Assault Incidents	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Prisoner on Prisoner	9,105	9,559	10,987	11,508	12,003
Mid year population	73,657	74,488	76,190	77,982	80,205
Rate (Percentage)	12	13	14	15	15

Notes:
1. The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents.
2. The 2007 figures do not include the three prisons (Albany, Camphill and Parkhurst where the incident recording has transferred to the separate NOMIS system.

Information about action taken by the police is not held centrally by NOMS and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Probation Trusts

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to increase the number of First Wave Probation Trusts. [222303]

Mr. Hanson: The Government will be continuing to work closely with and support the first six probation trusts in the learning year of 2008-09 as they develop and evolve. There are no plans to establish any further First Wave Trusts but better development of the next wave is under consideration.

Reoffenders

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many former prisoners re-offended within 12 months of release in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* nationally in each of the last five years. [222951]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows the number of offenders released from custody who committed a reoffence within 12 months, where the offender was subsequently convicted of this offence at court in England and Wales. I regret that figures on where reoffences are committed by police force area are not currently available. These figures have been taken from the most recently available adult reoffending cohorts, which include all offenders released from prison or starting community sentences in the first quarters of 2002 to 2006, where the offender could be matched to the Police National Computer (PNC).

	Number of offenders reoffending within 12 months of release from prison	*Total number of releases from prison*[1]	*Percentage of offenders reoffending within 12 months of release*
Q1 2002	8,574	15,578	55.0
Q1 2003	7,738	14,358	53.9
Q1 2004	8,185	15,761	51.9
Q1 2005	7,165	14,595	49.1
Q1 2006	6,686	14,380	46.5

[1] Where the offender could be matched to the PNC

The latest reoffending statistics, 'Reoffending of adults: results from the 2006 cohort', including additional information on frequency and severity of reoffending, were published on 4 September 2008. It showed that between the 2000 and 2006 cohorts, frequency of reoffending fell by 22.9 per cent., severity of reoffending fell by 11.1 per cent., and the proportion of offenders reoffending fell by 10.7 per cent.

The full report is available on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/re-offending-adults-2006.pdf

Schools

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of any materials his Department has distributed to schools since its inception. [222548]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice, created on 9 May 2007, has placed copies the following materials in the Library. All of the items can be accessed by schools via the internet.

Ministry of Justice HQ

'Right Here, Right Now'

This is a human rights information resource for teachers within the Key Stage 3 Citizenship curriculum. Teachers are reached through the DCSF TeacherNet channel. The resource can be accessed at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/whatwedo/humanrights.htm

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

'Inside Justice Week'

Schools were invited, via direct mail, to opt in for a free teaching pack. This is promoted through the DCSF using their communication channels and can be accessed at

http://insidejustice.cisonline.gov.uk/schools/

National Offender Management Service

'Judge for Yourself'

These are real-life cases where actors play the parts of the offenders and invite the viewer to decide on a suitable sentence. It is being promoted by the Association for Citizenship Teaching. DCSF has collaborated by testing and approving supporting materials for citizenship. The resource can be accessed at:

http://www.ezstream.co.uk/coi/

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times restraint has been used in secure training centres for the purpose of *(a)* ensuring good order, *(b)* preventing a child from escaping from custody, *(c)* preventing a child injuring himself or others and *(d)* preventing a child from damaging property. [222794]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested has been collected centrally by the Youth Justice Board since April 2008 and is set out in the following table.

	April 2008	*May 2008*	*June 2008*	*July 2008*	*August 2008*	*Total*
Good order and discipline	4	0	3	9	0	16
Escape from custody	0	0	1	1	0	2
Injuring self or others	137	95	119	170	150	671
Damage to property	7	14	13	7	15	56

Source:
Data supplied by the Youth Justice Board from administrative systems

Solicitors Regulation Authority

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has received the report of Lord Ouseley into allegations of racism in the Solicitors Regulation Authority. [220232]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw), and I have received copies of Lord Ouseley's report into disproportionate regulatory outcomes for black and minority ethnic solicitors, which was published on 14 August 2008.

We welcome Lord Ouseley's review and his recommendations and also the SRA's commitment to implementing the recommendations. We look forward to receiving a copy of the SRA's action plan setting out how they propose to do this and the time scales to which they are working.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222176]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ), excluding HM Prison Service, has a formal Stress at Work policy, which is supported by a dedicated toolkit and a learning guide on the MOJ intranet. The toolkit provides detailed

guidance for managers and employees as to how the causes of harmful stress experienced as a result of either a work or a non-work related condition can be identified and prevented. Individuals who are experiencing stress are encouraged to complete a formal assessment with their line managers designed to identify possible remedies and constructive actions that can be taken to address the causes identified.

Individuals and line managers can access support through their HR advisors if necessary and further specialist advice and support can be obtained via our Employee Assistance Programme and internal support services. The MOJ operates a 24-hour support help line that any member of staff can access and support is also available through corporate staff networks and via the TUS.

The public sector Prison Service offers comprehensive support to staff at risk of post traumatic stress following an incident at work. In the immediate aftermath of a potentially traumatic incident, line managers conduct initial debriefing and care teams are in place in every establishment to offer peer support. If necessary, a full critical incident debrief is later conducted by specialist employee support officers, who can recommend referrals for specialist treatment, including counselling and cognitive behavioural therapy. The prison service also operates a 24-hour support helpline that any member of staff can access.

The prison service has been working closely with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in Kent area on a project aimed at implementing the HSE stress management standards and using this information and lessons learned to develop stress management policies and guidance for the Service. In accordance with the best practice approach advocated by HSE, stress management initiatives will be integrated into wider HR initiatives.

We are also currently developing in-house training for general 'stress awareness' and 'stress management for line managers' for the benefit of staff.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223028]

Maria Eagle: For the 2007-08 financial year figures are as follows.

	£
National Offender Management Service—Centre	
Taxi Fares Admin Travel	54,950
UK Taxi Fares Programme Travel	33,340
Overseas Taxi Fares Admin Travel	255
Total	88,545
Office for Criminal Justice Reform	
Taxi Fares Admin Travel	15,352
Overseas Taxi Fares Admin Travel	24
Total	15,376

Ministry of Justice HQ and Associated Offices, HM Courts Service, HM Prison Service, Tribunals Service, Office of the Public Guardian

It is not possible to determine how much was spent on taxis in the last 12 months, as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's financial systems. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All official travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the 'Ministerial Code' and the 'Civil Service Management Code' respectively. Copies of these are available in the House Library.

Voting Behaviour

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the consultation on weekend voting offers distinct options of Saturday, Sunday and both Saturday and Sunday and only a single weekday option. [222256]

Mr. Wills: The "Election Day: Weekend Voting" consultation paper explains that a General Election may currently be held on any weekday, although local government elections are required to be held on a Thursday. The "Governance of Britain" Green Paper made a commitment to consult on the question of moving elections to the weekend on the basis that there may be advantages in moving in terms of convenience for voters. The benefits that moving elections to a weekday other than Thursday might have in terms of convenience for the voter are less obvious.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the turnout rate at *(a)* national and *(b)* local elections among (i) men and (ii) women in the latest period for which figures are available. [222285]

Bridget Prentice: The Government believe that elections must be equally accessible and responsive to the needs of all eligible male and female electors.

A number of surveys have been conducted on behalf of, or used by, the Electoral Commission which provide estimated figures for the percentage of men and women who voted at the national and local elections between 2001 and 2008:

General elections

2001: Male 61 per cent., Female 58 per cent.

2005: Male 62 per cent., Female 61 per cent.

Source:

MORI

Local elections

2008 (England and Wales): Male 48 per cent., Female 42 per cent.[1]

Source:

ICM

2007 (England): Male 37 per cent., Female 39 per cent.

Source:

GfK NOP

2006 (England): Male 37 per cent., Female 38 per cent.

Source:

BRMB

[1] In 2008, unlike in previous years, the research questioned a higher proportion of actual voters (45 per cent. of those who had voted and 55 per cent. of non voters) than had turned out at the poll (the overall turnout was 35 per cent.). As a result, the figures for the percentage of men and women voting do not reflect turnout directly but should be seen as a guide to relative turnout among men and women.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women voted in the 2005 general election. [222286]

Bridget Prentice: Information is not held centrally on the number of men and women who voted in the 2005 general election. However, an independent MORI poll conducted at the time of the 2005 general election estimated that 62 per cent. of men voted compared with 61 per cent. of women.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what role he expects external opinion research firms to play in the Citizens' Summit on weekend voting. [223959]

Mr. Wills: We are currently exploring the potential use of external opinion research firms to assist in the design and delivery of the deliberative element of the summit.

Voting Methods: Pilot Schemes

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for voting pilots in the 2009 local elections; and what assessment he has made of the effect of moving the date of the 2009 local elections to the date of the elections to the European Parliament on the feasibility of holding such pilots. [223071]

Mr. Wills: The Secretary of State for Justice is obliged by section 10 of the Representation of the People Act 2000 to consider any application from a local authority to run an electoral pilot. The provisions of the Act restrict piloting to local government elections only: it would not therefore be possible for any pilots to take place if the English local government elections were moved to be combined with the date of the European Parliamentary elections in June 2009. The Government published a consultation document on the combination of those elections on 20 May 2008 the consultation period closed on 11 August. The consultation paper is available at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/2009electionsconsultation

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer question 172523, on the operation of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906, tabled on 4 December 2007 by the hon. Member for Southend West; what the reason for the time taken to reply is; what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to answer written parliamentary questions within a working week of them being tabled; and if he will make a statement. [222358]

Maria Eagle: The question was transferred to the Solicitor-General on 6 December 2007. The Ministry of Justice's Parliamentary Branch wrote to the hon. Member on that day informing him of the transfer.

Young Offender Institutions: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of children in young offender institutions are *(a)* white, *(b)* black and *(c)* Asian. [221897]

Mr. Straw: Young offender institutions accommodate sentenced prisoners aged from 15 to 21. The following table gives the breakdown by known ethnicity of all such sentenced young offenders as at 30 June 2007.

Ethnic group	*Total sentenced young offenders aged 15 to 20*	*As percentage of all with known ethnicity*
White	6,875	75
Black or Black British	1,312	14
Asian or Asian British	471	5
Chinese or other	64	1
Mixed	500	5

These figures are taken from table 9.2 of the publication Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System—2006-07 at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-race-criminal-justice.pdf

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of sentence was for young offenders convicted for offences involving *(a)* violence against a person, *(b)* burglary, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* sexual offences and *(e)* illegal drugs where a custodial sentence was handed down in the financial year (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [224459]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Data are published on a calendar year basis. 2006 is the latest year for which annual figures have been published. The 2007 data will be published by the end of the year.

Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] for various offences by age group, all courts, 2006, England and Wales

Average sentence (months)

	Age groups		
Offence groups	*Juveniles (10-17 year olds*	*Young Adults (18-20 year olds)*	*10-20 year olds*
Violence against the person	12.8	16.3	15.2
Burglary	8.6	13.9	11.7
Robbery	16.9	31.5	24.4
Sexual offences	29.9	36.5	33.8
Drug offences	14.0	24.7	22.5

[1] Months. Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

The number of young offenders sentenced and given an IPP—imprisonment for public protection—or a life sentence is contained in the following table.

Number of persons sentenced[1] to an IPP or life for various offences by age group, all courts, 2006, England and Wales

Number of persons

Age group	Total number sentenced	Imprisonment for public protection (IPP)	Life sentence
Juveniles (10 -17 year olds)			
Violence against the person	7,559	13	29
Sexual offences	500	11	12
Burglary	6,169	—	—
Robbery	3,733	13	13
Drug offences	4,460	—	—
Young adults (18-20 year olds)			
Violence against the person	7,457	95	135
Sexual offences	360	25	28
Burglary	3,723	5	6
Robbery	1,642	67	71
Drug offences	5,841	—	1
10-20 year olds			
Violence against the person	15,016	108	164
Sexual offences	860	36	40
Burglary	9,892	5	6
Robbery	5,375	80	84
Drug offences	10,301	—	1

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers took flights from London Gatwick Airport to *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* Edinburgh and *(d)* Glasgow in each of the last three years. [223970]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of passengers who took flights from London Gatwick Airport to Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Passengers from London Gatwick to Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow

Thousand

	2005	2006	2007
Birmingham	0	0	0
Manchester	241	239	210
Edinburgh	377	377	374
Glasgow	188	217	286

Note:
There are no flights from London Gatwick to Birmingham.

Source:
DfT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assumptions her Department made in calculating the price elasticity of demand for air travel in its *(a)* 2007 publication UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts and *(b)* 2000 publication Air Traffic Forecasts for the United Kingdom 2000. [224537]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The air price elasticities and explanation of how they are were calculated are set out in the forecasts documents.

The UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

The Air Traffic Forecasts for the United Kingdom 2000' is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pdf/pgr/aviation/atf/airtrafficforecastsfortheuni281.

Aviation: Disabled

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to improve air travel for disabled passengers. [224282]

Jim Fitzpatrick: EC Regulation 1107/2006, which gives rights to disabled passengers when travelling by air, was implemented in the UK from 26 July 2008.

On 23 July 2008, the Department for Transport published a revised code of practice "Access to air travel for Disabled Persons and Persons with Reduced Mobility", which provides guidance to the aviation industry on how to comply with its obligations under the regulation.

In addition to the code of practice, the Department has also published a passenger guidance leaflet which mirrors the contents of the code and covers the rights and responsibilities of passengers.

Aviation: Oil

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projection of oil prices per barrel for *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020 and *(c)* 2030 were used in the calculations contained in her Department's publication UK Air passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts; and upon what assumptions such projections were based. [224538]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The oil price projections are set out at page 88 (Table B3) of the UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts report

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

Table B3: Range of real oil price assumptions, $/ barrel (2004 prices)

	Low	Central	High
2005	55	55	55
2010	25	57	70
2015	25	50	75
2020	25	53	80
2025	25	53	80
2030	25	53	80

The central oil assumptions are assumed to move in line with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform central oil projection, which falls from about $65 per barrel in 2006 to $53 per barrel in 2030.

As part of the sensitivity testing, the oil price test varies the projection of oil within the BERR oil price projection range ($25 per barrel to $80 per barrel by 2030) at (base year) 2004 prices.

The relevant BERR documents:

'Meeting the Energy Challenge: A White Paper on Energy', BERR, Cm 7124, Annex B Table B5 for central assumptions.

'Update Energy and Carbon and Emissions Projections (Energy White Paper Supporting Document)', BERR, May 2007, Annex B, URN 07/947

Biofuels

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage greater global usage of sustainable biofuels. [224284]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK is seeking to ensure that biofuels used both inside and outside of the UK are sustainable. We have developed a world class carbon and sustainability reporting system under the UK's Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation. This requires suppliers to provide reports containing information about the environmental performance of the biofuels they supply. We are working within Europe to ensure that the proposed sustainability criteria under the draft Renewable Energy Directive are made as robust as possible. We are also working with the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) to develop an internationally recognised lifecycle greenhouse gas methodology for biofuels.

In response to widespread concerns about the indirect impacts of biofuel production the Government asked Professor Gallagher of the Renewable Fuels Agency to carry out a review of the wider sustainability impacts of biofuels. The review involved a number of international experts and examined the impacts of biofuel production at a global level. This review was published in July 2008 and has been disseminated widely. Following the review we are seeking for indirect impacts to be included in the EU's mandatory sustainability criteria.

Bus Services: Pensioners

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pensioners have applied for free national bus passes in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* England. [222624]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many applications for passes individual authorities have received. Bolton is part of Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive and the latest figures held by the Department show that as of June 2008 GMPTE had issued approximately 387,000 concessionary passes to both elderly and disabled people.

As of August 2008, approximately 7.1 million Integrated Transport Smartcard Operation concessionary smartcard passes have been issued and approximately 900,000 London Freedom Passes have been re-stickered for national use. We cannot currently break down the figure by disabled and elderly passes, but reporting systems are being set up to allow us to do so in the future.

Coventry Airport

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government has taken to increase passenger numbers at Coventry Airport; and if she will make a statement. [221831]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is for airport owners and operators to bring forward proposals for development in the normal way, through the statutory land use planning system.

The White Paper "The Future of Air Transport" does not itself authorise or preclude any particular development, but sets out a policy framework that will guide decisions on planning decisions.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that her Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul flights. [222121]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has made one contribution to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund for financial year 2006-07. For that year flights were broken down only into short haul and long haul. The Department's contribution related to 1,647,309 miles of short haul travel, and 1,585,631 miles long haul, a total of 3,232,939 miles.

Departmental Data Protection

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what types of data have been sold by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222120]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Core information produced by the Department for Transport and its Executive agencies can be re-used free of charge under the terms of the Public Sector Information Click-Use Licence, which is administered by the Office of Public Sector Information in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

The DFTs Executive agencies have, sold the following data under PSI regulations in the last 12 months:

DSA has sold mailing list data of approved and trainee driving instructors, with their consent, to mailing houses.

DVLA has sold two types of non-personalised vehicle data sets to contracted businesses related to statistical, lifestyle analysis and HPI vehicle checking.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [222125]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport includes seven executive Agencies and a Shared Service Centre. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') and legislation made under it has enabled the Department to undertake direct surveillance, use covert human intelligence sources and acquire communications data.

Figures on public authority use of covert techniques controlled by RIPA are published annually by the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner who each have particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA. The latest, reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the Libraries of the House on 22 July. The figures provided in the reports are not broken down by individual public authority use of specific covert technique as, depending on the particular technique and authority using it, this could either reveal sensitivities or be misleading. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant Commissioner.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many notifications *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies made to the Information Commissioner following the loss or mishandling of personal information or data in each of the last three years; and what was notified in each case. [222902]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has published details of the personal data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its resource accounts published on 17 July 2008.

Before November 2007 the Information Commissioner's Office did not specifically keep records of instances of security breaches.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in Government.

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what use *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [222117]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in her Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223047]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's five most serious disciplinary cases in the past 12 months involved cases of fraud and inappropriate use of IT equipment. These were considered as acts of gross misconduct and the usual penalty for this is dismissal which applied in these cases.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 919W, on departmental home working, if she will make it her policy to collate and maintain central records of home working by her Department's staff. [222539]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not keep central records of staff who are home workers at present.

When all business areas of the Department for Transport has fully migrated to a shared service centre, the information will be collated and maintained centrally.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on mobile telephones in each year since 1997. [222260]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002 and the available data for each full year after 2002-03 is set out in the following table.

£000

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DFT(C)	n/a	94.5	102.5	119.5	205.2	261.9
HA	137.0	179.0	228.0	195.0	256.0	387.0
VOSA	n/a	358.0	410.0	379.0	310.0	287.0
DSA	n/a	35.3	44.6	43.3	40.6	49.0
DVLA	54.0	81.4	90.2	108.2	105.5	102.5
MCA	109.8	140.2	129.5	128.1	117.0	117.5
GCDA	29.9	25.2	26.8	31.5	30.0	32.7

The costs shown for the central Department and agencies except for MCA are in respect of all costs associated with mobile phone provision and use. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency costs are for line rental only, other costs could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Data for 2002-03 is not available from The Driving Standards Agency because of a change to their finance system or for the Vechicle and Operator Services Agency because this agency was only formed on 1 April 2003.

Departmental Offices

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222126]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Nil.

(b) The requested information is provided in the following table.

Property	*Area (square metres)*
Driving Standards Agency HQ, Nottingham	2,549
Highways Agency—Lateral, Leeds	3,300
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency:	
Chelmsford	1,068.4
Ty Felin	4,400
A Block Data Centre, Swansea	350

Property	Area (square metres)
Off Site Data Centre, Swansea	1,092.6
Reading (Theale)	1,074.5
Birmingham	1,196.6
Shrewsbury	343.3
Edinburgh	577

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in her Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222118]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport provides individual residential accommodation for six Vehicle Certification Agency staff based overseas as follows:

United States of America. Accommodation provided for a Pay Band 6, Pay Band 5 and a Pay Band 4.

Japan. Accommodation provided for a Pay Band 6 and for two Pay Band 4s.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people her Department employs who have an annual salary of over £100,000. [222323]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport employs 44 people with an annual salary of over £100,000.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to her Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222124]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A table showing the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to the Department for Transport and its agencies in 2007-08 has been placed in the Libraries of the House. This is based on details of purchase orders raised. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Vehicle Certification Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency could not provide the information requested without, incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W, on departmental retirement, how many requests to work beyond the standard retirement age have been received by her Department in each of the last five years. [222431]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has provided details of the number of requests to work beyond the standard retirement age in the last five years where those requests have been agreed and employees have continued to work.

Details of declined requests to work beyond the standard retirement age are currently not available. Declined requests are not recorded in a way that is readily retrievable.

Departmental Television

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1754W, on departmental television, whether staff in her Department's Ministerial private offices have access to the Sky Sports channel. [222224]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None of the Department for Transport's ministerial private offices have access to the Sky Sports channel.

Departmental Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether staff of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [222119]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All official travel in the Department for Transport and its agencies is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code" and the departmental or agency staff handbooks.

Staff members who are entitled to first or business class air travel are permitted to travel in a cheaper class, but are not permitted to derive any monetary or other benefit from the consequent saving.

Driving Tests

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many multi-purpose test centres will be operational *(a)* by 29 September 2008 and *(b)* in January 2009; [221914]

(2) if she will assess whether the date for implementation of EC Directive 2000/56/EC can be deferred so as to enable the full roll-out of multi-purpose test centres prior to the Directive coming into force. [222030]

Jim Fitzpatrick: 38 multi-purpose test centres were operational on 29 September. A further four multi-purpose test centres will be operational by the end of January 2009.

The Driving Standards Agency has deferred the date for implementation of the EC Directive 2000/56/EC until the end of March 2009.

Driving Under Influence: Accidents

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents have been caused by drivers under the influence of either alcohol or drugs in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in the last 12 months. [221896]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2006, the latest year available, there were an estimated 8,170 personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver or rider over the legal alcohol limit in England.

In 2007, there were 601 reported personal injury road accidents with 'impairment by drugs (illicit or medicinal)' as a contributory factor in England.

The information requested is not available at constituency or local authority level.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths were caused by drivers under the influence of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* prohibited drugs in each of the last 10 years. [221924]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver or rider over the legal alcohol limit in 1998 to 2007 in Great Britain are shown in the table.

	Number of fatalities
1998	460
1999	460
2000	530
2001	530
2002	550
2003	580
2004	580
2005	550
2006	560
2007[1]	460

[1] Provisional data. The sample of fatality data from Coroners for 2006 has now been finalised but 2007 estimates are based on a reduced sample of coroners' returns. They remain provisional until more complete information for 2007 is available.

This information is also available in table A of '2007 estimates for accidents involving illegal alcohol levels', available at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/162469/221412/221549/399405/rcgb07drinkdrive.pdf.

The numbers of fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver/rider with impairment by drugs (illicit or medicinal) as a contributory factor for 2005 to 2007 in Great Britain are shown in the table.

Fatalities in accidents involving impairment by drugs

	Number
2005	59
2006	59
2007	70

Information on contributory factors is not available prior to 2005.

The contributory factor "impairment by drugs" applies to prohibited drugs as well as all medicines, whether prescription or 'over the counter'. It is not possible to separate the factor into prohibited and medicinal drugs.

The drug factor is recorded in accidents in which the police officer's opinion at the time of reporting is that the driver/rider was affected by drugs and behaved in a way which caused, or contributed to, the accident. This may not be the result of a drug screening test.

Driving: Mobile Phones

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent comparative research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by her Department on the effect of using (i) hands-free mobile telephones and (ii) hand-held mobile telephones while driving, on (A) driver reaction times and (B) accident rates. [222259]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. However, the Department is aware of research undertaken elsewhere that shows the dangers of using mobile phones while driving. For example, a study for Direct Line Motor Insurance, published in 2002 and undertaken by TRL Ltd., demonstrated the effect on driver reaction times of using both hand-held and hands-free phones, adversely comparing that to the effect on a driver's reaction times while impaired through alcohol.

East London Line

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has held with the Mayor of London on the completion of phase two of the East London line extension. [223968]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2003-4W.

East London Line: Finance

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to authorise the release of the funds for the phase 2 extension of the East London line. [224181]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The East London line extension is a TfL project. At the end of last year we agreed a generous a long term funding settlement with Transport for London (TfL). This gives TfL and London's Mayor the ability to set their own priorities and deliver a wide range of improvements to London's transport network. In this context, it is a matter for TfL and the Mayor to decide on the funding of this £100 million phase 2 extension of the East London line.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contracts *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221836]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and a number of its agencies make use of the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions framework Energy: Over 100 Electricity for the supply of electricity. Payments are made directly to EDF companies under these framework arrangements for the supply of electricity and related services. There are a small number of additional contracts for energy supply.

The Highways Agency makes payments direct to EDF companies in relation to maintenance and management of the strategic road network in the east and south-east of England. These payments include ones to EDF as a "statutory undertaker" under the provisions of the New Roads and Street Works Act

1991. These occur when it is necessary for EDF to move their apparatus, e.g. cables or other equipment that are in or associated with the highway, to allow the agency to carryout building or maintenance works. The 1991 Act sets out the arrangements for these payments.

The Vehicle Operator and Services Agency has made payments to EDF companies in respect of the provision and maintenance of services.

The Department was formed in May 2002. The following table shows the total value of recorded payments (where information is available) made to EDF since this date. Omitted information and details of the specific purpose of spend could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Department for Transport Spend with EDF

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Central Department for Transport	87,885.27	311,073.79	384,052.82	526,543.06	785,980.01	808,362.39
DVLA	n/a	533,630.84	656,608.24	759,423.95	1,203,443.93	1,010,310.51
Highways Agency[1]	17,816,000.00	23,059,000.00	15,996,000.00	8,985,000.00	869,000.00	834,000.00
DSA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	61,882.00
VOSA[2]	n/a	26,000.00	16,000.00	33,400.00	44,200.00	74,700.00
MCA[3]	2,141.73	694.24	13,279.22	5,300.30	46,574.42	98,643.00
VCA	0	0	0	0	0	0
GCDA[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	61,282.67	28,542.94

[1] Includes spend relating to highway building and maintenance activity.
[2] Includes spend relating to provision and maintenance of pipelines.
[3] For the calendar year.

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in her Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or the administration of European Union legislation and consequent policies. [222280]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This Government are firmly committed to the importance of the EU in delivering on 21st century challenges. The EU is of central importance to the work of HM Government across all Departments. It is relevant to a wide range of policy areas, and to the work of many Government officials.

Four members of the Department for Transport's EU co-ordination team are mainly tasked with various aspects of the Department's work on European legislation, including preparation of transport councils, UK parliamentary scrutiny, and co-ordination of briefing for UK Members of the European Parliament.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she plans to publish the 54 decibel noise exposure contour maps for *(a)* easterly and westerly preference and *(b)* landings on the northern and southern runways at Heathrow; [221855]

(2) when she plans to publish estimates of the number of people resident within the 54 decibel noise exposure contour for *(a)* landings on the northern and southern runways and *(b)* easterly and westerly preference at Heathrow; [221856]

(3) when she will publish an estimate of the number of people who would be resident within the 54 decibel noise exposure contour at Heathrow if the westerly preference were abandoned. [221857]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is standard practice in the UK to produce aircraft noise contours between 57 dBA Leq and 72 dBA Leq. Based on past research, the 57 dBA Leq noise level has been used as marking the approximate onset of community annoyance. However the November 2007 Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England (ANASE) study which had been commissioned to update Government research found that people were more annoyed by all levels of aircraft noise than they were in 1985, when the last major study in this field was carried out. However the study reported that there was no identifiable threshold at which noise became a serious problem. Accordingly we believe it is right to retain the 57 dBA level as a safeguard for those most affected by aircraft noise.

The consultation 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' addressed the issue of whether westerly preference operations should be retained at Heathrow. In particular, the supporting Civil Aviation Policy report ERCD 0705 'Revised Future Aircraft Noise Exposure Estimates for Heathrow Airport' reviews, in detail, the noise impacts of changing between westerly and easterly preferences in terms of area, population and households affected.

Modelling aircraft noise below 57 dBA Leq 16 hrs becomes increasingly uncertain as the noise level decreases, primarily because of difficulties in obtaining aircraft noise measurements that are not contaminated with other sources of noise. Aircraft noise modelling at such levels is less likely to generate accurate and reliable results. Secondly, noise levels much below 57 dBA Leq correspond to generally low disturbance to most people. It is for these reasons that noise exposure contours are not routinely produced below 57 dBA Leq and only for specific purposes at 54 dBA Leq, e.g. usually as sensitivity test in relation to an assessment of airport expansion.

As regards to the production of separate maps for the number of people resident within the 54 dBA contour for landings on the northern and southern runways, it is considered that such maps would raise issues of interpretation for local residents between the runways who are exposed to noise from either runway. Accordingly it is not proposed to produce such maps.

The report also considered the option of the airport abandoning the westerly preference and operating on a no preference scenario. However the ERCD 0705 report concluded that operating such an arrangement potentially

raised issues about how runway direction changes would be managed (with the possibility a greater number of changes). Accordingly the assessment was not taken forward.

HM Coastguard: North West

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which HM Coastguard units, including air assets, are tasked to cover the North Lancashire and Cumbria coastline during a typical 24 hour period. [223702]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Search and rescue needs across the UK are met by a number of providers including those from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

The response to maritime emergencies in the Lancashire and Cumbria coastal areas is normally coordinated from the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre at Crosby (MRCC Liverpool). This is an all hours centre. Its functions may be taken over, for resilience purposes, by MRCC Holyhead.

The other HM Coastguard units in this area are the 12 volunteer Coastguard rescue teams who are on call 24 hours a day, providing between them search, mud and cliff rescue responses along the coast.

There are no Coastguard helicopters in this area but helicopter coverage is provided by Ministry of Defence assets based at RAF Valley (Anglesey), RAF Boulmer (Northumberland) and RNAS Prestwick.

Others providing services are the RNLI and other independent responders in the maritime sector. The police and fire and rescue services and others may also be called upon if an incident involves land based rescue.

HM Coastguard: Standards

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidelines her Department issues on response times by HM Coastguard vessels to incidents. [223701]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no guidance on response times specifically for HM Coastguard vessels. Instead, the Maritime and Coastguards Agency service standards require the agency to decide upon the appropriate search and rescue response and initiate action with five minutes of being alerted. In addition, the Department's contract with Klyne Tugs (Lowestoft) Ltd, specifies that the four emergency towing vessels (strategically located around the UK to provide support to vessels in need of assistance) are maintained at a constant 30 minutes state of readiness.

London Underground: Public Private Partnership

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 163-4W, on London Underground: Public Private Partnership, what response she has received to her request to London Underground that KPMG's Final Assessment of Public Private Partnerships be placed in the Library. [222657]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have now placed a copy of the report that consists of two letters from KPMG to London Underground Limited dated 8 February and 17 December 2002 in the House Libraries.

Morning Star

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1191W, on the *Morning Star*, which division of her Department receives the copy of the *Morning Star*. [222225]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Press Office in the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency receives a copy of the *Morning Star* on a daily basis (Monday to Saturday).

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many people have *(a)* contested and *(b)* contested successfully a late licensing penalty received from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) (i) in the county court and (ii) directly with the DVLA in each of the last five years; [223774]

(2) how many people were issued with a late licensing penalty by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each of the last five years. [223775]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The agency began issuing late licensing penalties (LLP) with the introduction of continuous registration (CR) in 2004. The volumes of LLP's issued each financial year since the commencement of CR are as follows:

	Number
2004-05	1,183,544
2005-06	1,341,598
2006-07	1,272,384
2007-08	1,219,462

When an LLP remains unpaid, the agency may issue a county court claim pack to the registered keeper, potentially leading to a county court judgement (CCJ). On receiving a county court claim pack, the registered keeper must make a formal response to the court if they wish to defend the claim.

The agency does not hold statistics to readily identify the number of county court cases which have been contested. This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost. The number of county court claims successfully contested by the registered keeper are as follows:

	Number
2004-05	15
2005-06	167
2006-07	290
2007-08	158

The agency does not hold statistics to readily identify the number of appeals received in cases for which an LLP has been issued. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The number of cases closed due either to dispute or mitigating circumstances are as follows:

	Number
2004-05	313,819
2005-06	397,543

	Number
2006-07	209,286
2007-08	134,746

These figures do not include those cases in which other factors have prompted closure, for example the Agency was unable to trace the registered keeper.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fines have been levied by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for failure to notify a change of ownership of a vehicle in the last 12 months; and in how many of these cases the fine has been waived subsequently. [224531]

Jim Fitzpatrick: During the calendar year September 2007 to August 2008 the agency created 45,339 cases for failure to notify a change of ownership of a vehicle. During the same period a total of 26,927 cases were closed due to mitigating circumstances.

Motorcycles: Accidents

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps the Government plan to take to reduce deaths and injuries of motorcyclists; [224305]

(2) what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce deaths and injuries of motorcyclists. [224306]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In February 2005, the Department for Transport published the Government's Motorcycle Strategy, which was developed with the full involvement of motorcycling industry and user groups.

The theme for the strategy is to facilitate motorcycling as a choice of travel within a safe and sustainable transport framework and it sets out a range of actions to improve safety, for central or local government, manufacturers, retailers, trainers and user groups.

On 23 July 2008, we published a revised action plan which updated the actions in the 2005 strategy.

Key achievements include:

A new TV and radio campaign from 2006 aimed at car drivers with the message 'take longer to look for bikes';

Think! sponsorship of the British Superbikes Championship;

Research on fatigue, training and drivers' attitudes to motorcyclists;

A new safety rating system for motorcycle helmets (SHARP);

A leaflet raising awareness of the dangers of diesel spills;

An online motorcycle users' survey on tyres, brakes and mirrors, to inform policy development;

A voluntary register of approved post test motorcycle trainers;

An Enhanced Rider Scheme offering insurance discounts to licensed riders who take further training with an approved instructor;

New guidance to local authorities on Use of Bus Lanes by Motorcycles;

Guidance to highway authorities on motorcycle-friendly infrastructure; and

Use of motorcycle-friendly crash barriers on parts of the Highways Agency network.

The overall motorcycle casualty rate per 100,000 vehicle kilometres is at the lowest level for many years. By 2007, the number of fatal and serious motorcycle casualties was 4 per cent. above the baseline of the 1994-98 average, but motorcycle traffic increased by 44 per cent. over this period, so the rate of fatal and serious casualties has fallen by 28 per cent.

We will continue with our efforts to reduce these casualty figures further.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans she has for future staffing levels. [221876]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has 6.5 full-time equivalent members of staff whose work relates wholly to the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. Many other members of staff in the Department and its agencies are also contributing to delivery of the Government's objectives for the 2012 Games.

Parking: Stoke-On-Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding is available to Stoke-on-Trent city council to expand its car-sharing and lorry parking scheme over the next five years. [223877]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have allocated local transport capital funding of £15.3 million to Stoke-on-Trent city council in the three years to 2010-11. No decisions have been taken on the level of funding in later years. It is for the local authority to determine what priority and resources should be allocated to widening its car sharing and lorry parking scheme.

Pedestrian Areas: Safety

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of introducing audible automatic and manual warning signals for electric scooters and similar vehicles that commonly use pedestrian areas. [224162]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Only those mobility scooters that can use the road (Class 3 scooters) are legally required to be fitted with an audible warning instrument.

Research was undertaken by the Department for Transport in 2006 on the use of Class 2 and Class 3 scooters. The research found that users of Class 2 scooters (which can be used in the pedestrian environment) were in favour of the introduction of audible warning instruments and lights for these vehicles. The Department is now looking at the future requirements for these vehicles and will take the results of this research into consideration.

Railways: Radioactive Materials

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains are assigned to the transport of nuclear flasks *(a)* from Bradwell and *(b)* Sizewell nuclear power stations to Sellafield via the Great Eastern Main Line and the North London Line; at what frequency the trains run; and if she will make a statement. [221826]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number and frequency of future shipments of irradiated nuclear fuel flasks and the routes to be taken are an operational matter for the organisations concerned and this Department does not hold this information.

Defueling operations at Bradwell are now complete and therefore there will be no further shipments of irradiated nuclear fuel from this site.

Roads: Accidents

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents were reported in each London borough in each year since 1997. [221891]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents in each London borough between 1997 and 2007 are given in the table.

Number of accidents

London borough	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
City of London	461	448	470	417	423	381	294	314	311	355	341
Barking	786	753	755	771	696	616	580	616	543	525	439
Barnet	1,568	1,620	1,578	1,551	1,470	1,457	1,355	1,254	1,137	1,087	1,089
Bexley	730	696	728	715	720	749	605	574	541	561	458
Brent	1,350	1,313	1,338	1,337	1,236	1,199	1,139	1,007	952	789	704
Bromley	1,241	1,176	1,155	1,013	1,022	1,106	887	900	857	756	676
Camden	1,483	1,429	1,451	1,434	1,441	1,225	1,142	1,044	935	786	748
Croydon	1,543	1,493	1,559	1,416	1,293	1,230	1,145	1,151	1,141	987	933
Ealing	1,631	1,499	1,612	1,535	1,567	1,493	1,386	1,171	1,108	987	915
Enfield	1,429	1,424	1,385	1,446	1,331	1,379	1,197	1,102	976	823	785
Greenwich	1,078	1,035	1,063	1,070	1,111	1,044	1,005	965	798	754	745
Hackney	1,179	1,171	1,231	1,211	1,242	1,037	1,005	895	899	751	794
Hammersmith	943	880	955	926	898	798	792	764	730	646	677
Haringey	995	1,059	985	1,231	1,138	1,016	998	854	708	722	643
Harrow	718	686	700	614	645	560	548	582	504	454	387
Havering	1,064	1,061	1,032	826	973	915	847	806	719	734	693
Hillingdon	1,436	1,273	1,254	1,340	1,279	1,209	1,096	1,076	964	832	840
Hounslow	1,341	1,236	1,104	1,222	1,195	1,103	1,020	891	829	786	743
Islington	1,174	1,289	1,246	1,281	1,245	1,104	1,000	817	739	647	599
Kensington and Chelsea	1,075	1,064	1,036	1,055	857	748	728	642	772	728	693
Kingston upon Thames	662	620	541	486	464	447	432	384	373	309	311
Lambeth	1,820	1,801	1,906	1,801	1,730	1,651	1,505	1,230	1,176	1,081	961
Lewisham	1,362	1,318	1,339	1,262	1,252	1,209	1,167	1,032	915	862	729
Merton	701	695	701	696	667	661	593	497	467	422	435
Newham	1,120	1,162	1,164	1,111	1,102	956	919	786	839	860	793
Redbridge	1,098	1,088	1,159	1,171	1,193	1,030	994	880	825	728	593
Richmond upon Thames	739	672	629	679	674	599	611	529	471	400	402
Southwark	1,555	1,600	1,620	1,515	1,535	1,446	1,415	1,105	1,018	1,070	904
Sutton	712	683	663	631	653	538	547	494	510	513	449
Tower Hamlets	1,033	1,150	1,202	1,140	1,170	930	899	829	839	787	831
Waltham Forest	932	987	972	987	882	845	838	750	777	718	670
Wandsworth	1,345	1,242	1,241	1,265	1,235	1,209	1,029	1,051	875	784	795
Westminster	2,541	2,635	2,594	2,516	2,392	2,110	2,126	1,886	1,564	1,585	1,490

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reported deaths from traffic accidents there were in *(a)* Romsey constituency, *(b)* the city of Southampton, *(c)* the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire and *(d)* Test Valley borough in each of the last five years. [222995]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of deaths in reported personal injury road accidents in Romsey constituency, the city of Southampton, Hampshire excluding Portsmouth and Southampton and the Test Valley borough in 2003 to 2007 are given in the following table.

Number of fatalities

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Romsey constituency[1]	12	4	5	2	8
Southampton	6	2	4	4	5
Hampshire excluding Portsmouth and Southampton	93	53	68	59	81
Test Valley borough	13	7	12	7	10

[1] Based on 2004 boundaries

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to make road traffic accident investigation reports accessible to the public. [223891]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Police accident investigation reports form a subjudice criminal investigation file once proceedings have been commenced. The contents of these files are not published, and extracts are only provided to courts and the Crown Prosecution Service in the process of providing evidence, and provided to third parties and insurance companies according to law. Following proceedings, the police files are held in confidence, given the personal and other data they contain. There are no plans to change this.

Roads: Safety

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what progress has been made on the Road Safety After 2010 Strategy; and when she plans to publish the strategy; [222261]

(2) what groups and organisations are being consulted in relation to her Department's Road Safety After 2010 Strategy. [222262]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The current road safety strategy runs from 2000 to 2010. The Department for Transport has been discussing with road safety stakeholders the challenges we face in the period after 2010 and listening to ideas on how to reduce casualties further. We expect to consult formally early in 2009 on a new road safety strategy.

We have so far involved the following organisations and intend to consult more widely prior to the formal consultation:

Parliamentary Advisory Council on Transport Safety
Road Safety Foundation
Hyder Consulting
Cycling England
Living Streets
County Surveyors' Society
Institute of Highways and Transportation
Transport for London
The Motorists' Forum
The RAC Foundation
The AA
The Motorcycle Industry Association
Brake
TRL
Child Accident Prevention Trust
Road Haulage Association
Roadsafe
Local Government Association
Ford Motor Company
Toyota Europe
Tata Motors
Jaguar Land Rover
Volvo Trucks
IVECO
BMW
The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders
Thatcham
Millbrook
Mira
Southampton University
Vehicle Safety Research Centre (Loughborough University)
Institute for Transport Studies (Leeds University)
The FIA Foundation
Cranfield University
ITS UK
Innovits

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who the members of the Road Safety Advisory Panel are; what the output of the panel was in each of the last 12 months; and how often the panel meets. [222263]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Road Safety Advisory Panel is a group of road safety interests convened by the Department for Transport to inform Government policy at key points in policy development. Its last meeting was on 6 December 2006 to discuss the second review of the road safety strategy. At that point, its membership was:

Highways Agency
Living Streets
Home Office
Motorcycle Advisory Group
Local Authority Road Safety Officer' Association
Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents
Welsh Local Government Association
County Surveyors' Society
CTC, the national cyclists' organisation
Parliamentary Advisory Council on Transport Safety
Driving Standards Agency
The AA Motoring Trust
Association of British Insurers
Welsh Assembly Government
Motor Schools Association
Scottish Executive
Child Accident Prevention Trust
RAC Foundation
RoadSafe
Brake
Local Authority Road Safety Officers' Association
Association of Chief Police Officers
Highways Agency
Health and Safety Executive

We expect to convene a meeting of the panel shortly to discuss the new road safety strategy, for the period beyond 2010.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what allocation her Department has made for expenditure on road safety in the next 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [222961]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is not possible to identify a budget figure for road safety alone, given that spending often serves multiple purposes. For example, highway authorities'

spending on roads is both to make trunk roads safer and to tackle congestion. Many individual schemes have multiple objectives.

However, the Department's annual report allocates budget by broad objective. The planned spend on the relevant objective—strengthening the safety and security of transport—is £3.867 million for 2008-09. There is further detail in Appendix A of the annual report, available on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/apr/ar2008/apr08appendixa.pdf.

Roads: Surveys

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 927W, on roads: surveys, if she will place in the Library copies of the Office for National Statistics Omnibus Survey research on road pricing compiled in the last two years. [223014]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Reports were published by the Department for Transport (DfT) on 25 October 2007 and 8 May 2008. They are on the DfT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/trsnstatsatt/congestionroadpricing

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

South East

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on services, broken down by type in *(a)* Dartford Borough, *(b)* Kent Thameside, *(c)* the Thames Gateway, *(d)* Kent County Council area and *(e)* the South East region in each of the last five years. [222455]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following tables show Department for Transport funding allocated to Kent county council and the total funding allocated to local authorities within the South East region over the last five years.

More detailed figures are not available since it is for Kent county council to decide on the allocation of available resource and investment to different areas. Spend in the Thames Gateway area may also include allocations from Essex county council and relevant London boroughs. Most transport revenue spend is supported through the revenue support grant, paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Kent county council

Funding stream	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£000 2008-09*
Integrated Transport Block	7896	6375	9464	11693	12883
Road Maintenance Block	16705	19956	20864	25044	23972
Major Schemes	8650	8868	20000	1000	0
Road Safety Grant	0	0	0	3105.592	3037.494
Detrunking	240.659	246.675	252.842	259.163	265.642
Rural Bus Subsidy Grant	2088.151	2170.027	2223.254	2276.481	2333.802
Urban Bus Challenge	552.079	101.000	117.369	35.839	0
Rural Bus Challenge	124.000	0.000	0	0	0
Kickstart	0	0	472.035	138.729	69.950
Transport Innovation Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Kerbcraft	49.653	11.433	24.940	0	0
Concessionary Fares Additional Special Grant	0	0	0	0	4321

South East region

Funding stream	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£000 2008-09*
Integrated Transport Block	100713	84580	84962	88260	89662
Road Maintenance Block	100533	105008	102315	112552	111568
Major Schemes	27084	25385	54239.5	11664.846	5397.984
Road Safety Grant	0	0	0	17325.755	17330.695
Detrunking	2976.470	3120.913	3198.935	3278.909	3360.882
Rural Bus Subsidy Grant	9704.734	10085.252	10332.628	10580.001	10846.402
Urban Bus Challenge	701.079	488.051	543.094	35.839	276.724
Rural Bus Challenge	2670.641	2132.295	901.099	1136.860	772.720
Kickstart	0	32.509	1205.836	371.857	952.819
Transport Innovation Fund	0	0	0	680	0
Kerbcraft	166.595	122.746	100.027	0	0
Concessionary Fares Additional Special Grant	0	0	0	0	25143

The region has also benefited from substantial investment in rail and strategic roads over the period. The relevant figures are not broken down between individual local authorities, but estimates of total identifiable expenditure by region are included at table A7 of the Department's annual report.

The majority of central funding for concessionary fares is provided through formula grant in the environmental protective and cultural services block from the Department for Communities and Local Government. From 1 April 2008, the Department for Transport is paying an additional special grant to local authorities to help fund the cost of the new statutory minimum bus concession, as detailed in the tables.

Since 2003, the Department has made available about £1.75-2 million per year of additional funding to Kent county council and Thurrock borough council. This is to help deliver local transport projects, in recognition of the impact of the Dartford crossing on local residents. Funding for Kent and Thurrock in 2004-05 and 2005-06 has been £1 million and £730,000, respectively. From 2006-07 to 2008-09, a similar amount of funding has been made available through the Integrated Transport Block, although it is not distinguished specifically from the other funding provided to the councils.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements her Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222167]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has a stress policy in place and is proactively looking at measures to reduce all sick absence. The Department also believes in early intervention by Occupational Health in response to reported stress absences and all staff have access to counselling services.

The Department is represented at Health and Safety Executive's Stress Management Network. HSE is helping Government Departments to implement the HSE management standards for work-related stress in their organisation.

Transport: ICT

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage technological advance in the transport industry. [221830]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has regular dialogue with transport industry groups, wider Government and academia (particularly through the research councils) on a broad range of issues, including the role that technology can play in delivering departmental objectives.

An example of this is work that the Department is currently joint funding with the Technology Strategy Board and Engineering and Physical Research Council through the Future Intelligent Transport Systems Programme which is looking into innovative ways to solve transport problems.

We also provide funding and support to research and development work for the provision of bus real time information, journey planning and better traffic management and control systems and techniques. Development in all these areas will help to address departmental objectives to improve passenger journeys and reduce traffic congestion, which will in turn bring environmental benefits.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Ballistic Missile Defence

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* financial, *(b)* political and *(c)* security benefits and costs to the UK of supporting US plans to deploy missile defence facilities in Europe; and if he will make a statement. [224214]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to chapter 4, section 4.68 of the recently published National Security Strategy which deals with the UK's response to the current and emerging security challenges. The UK contributes to ballistic missile early warning through the facilities at RAF Fylingdales and RAF Menwith Hill. The cost of the upgrade at RAF Fylingdales—and the work at RAF Menwith Hill—was funded by the US Government. We do not anticipate the direct running costs incurred by the UK to increase because of the participation of these stations in the US ballistic missile defence system.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the political situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina was on the agenda of the General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting on 15 and 16 September. [224191]

David Miliband: The Western Balkans was on the agenda for the September EU General Affairs and External Relations Council, though discussion focused mainly on Serbia's co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Ahead of the Council. I sent a joint letter with Czech Foreign Minister Schwarzenberg to all EU colleagues highlighting the ongoing challenges in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the need for EU focus and engagement in addressing these challenges. We used the Council to introduce that letter and will be discussing it further with EU colleagues in the coming months.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political and security situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and if he will make a statement. [224192]

David Miliband: I remain concerned about the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Progress on the key reforms detailed in Bosnia and Herzegovina's European Partnership and on the objectives necessary to allow for closure of the Office of the High Representative has been slow and uncertain. I am also concerned by ethnic nationalist rhetoric, from both Federation and Republika Srpska politicians, which questions the structure of the state as set out in the Dayton Peace Agreement. The Government continue to support High Representative/EU Special Representative Lajcak in upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement and in fulfilling his mandate.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for the future of the Office of the high representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its status beyond the end of 2008; and if he will make a statement. [224193]

David Miliband: The Government remain committed to increased ownership and responsibility for Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders and therefore to closure of the Office of the high representative. However, this can only happen when the time is right. In February 2008, the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board agreed to link closure of the Office of the high representative to the fulfilment of five objectives and two conditions. Key among these is the need for a stable political and security situation, based on full compliance with Dayton. The Peace Implementation Council Steering Board will meet from 20-21 November to discuss the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and progress on these objectives and conditions.

British Council: Marketing

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the British Council has spent on rebranding in the last 24 months. [222985]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The British Council has not spent any resources on rebranding in the last 24 months.

Brunei: Foreign Relations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when he last visited Brunei; what recent steps he has taken to strengthen United Kingdom economic, commercial, cultural and educational links with Brunei; and if he will make a statement; [222244]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of relations with Brunei; and if he will make a statement. [222245]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not visited Brunei Darussalam but the UK continues to engage with Brunei at the highest levels. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam in London on 24 June. They discussed a range of issues, including the global economic outlook, Brunei's support for deployments of our Brunei Garrison to Afghanistan and Brunei's initiative on preserving the Borneo rainforest. His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam also pledged to sign the Call to Action Plan on the UN Millennium Development Goals. I also met Brunei's Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Pehin Lim, in London on 18 March.

The UK and Brunei have a long-standing and strong bilateral relationship, particularly on defence co-operation, trade and education. We are grateful for His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam's continued support for the battalion of Gurkhas based at Brunei. The UK continues to play a strong role in developing Brunei's oil and gas sector, and the Brunei Investment Agency is a significant investor in the UK, with their largest overseas operations in the City of London. The UK remains the destination of choice for Bruneian students, with about 1,220 of them enrolled in higher education in the UK in 2006-07. Our high commission has also organised cultural events in Brunei with particular focus on links with the Islamic world.

China: Human Rights

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the Government plans to engage with China on human rights over the next three years. [222300]

Meg Munn: Engaging with China on human rights is a Government priority and requires a sustained commitment. We will maintain a multi-layered approach, based around advocacy, dialogue and project work. We engage in regular high-level lobbying to encourage political progress, and project work to deliver concrete assistance on the ground. We are firmly committed to the UK-China and EU-China Human Rights Dialogues, which allow us to discuss human rights in greater depth with the Chinese government. We believe these dialogues contribute to incremental progress on human rights in China. They continue to provide a direct channel of communication with the Chinese government, allowing us to discuss difficult and complex issues in detail. We regularly review our approach, including through stakeholder consultation. We fund and work closely with the Great Britain-China Centre, which carries out projects related to human rights and rule of law in China.

China: Politics and Government

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what projects the Government funds in China to encourage *(a)* development of a legal system, *(b)* good governance, *(c)* respect of human rights and *(d)* labour and structural reform. [222298]

Meg Munn: The Government fund projects in China through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Human Rights and Democracy Strategic Project Fund (SPF), through the Ministry of Justice judicial training scheme and through British Council work to support social enterprise. The SPF is currently funding six projects in China on criminal justice reform (for instance, introducing monitoring of detention centres and providing capacity building for defence lawyers) and progress towards abolition of the death penalty. We are developing further projects in these areas and on freedom of expression and the development of civil society. The Ministry of Justice judicial training scheme, which is now in its eleventh year, supports legal development by bringing Chinese judges to the UK for a year long study programme. Later this year the British Council will launch a social enterprise programme to support individuals in launching community-based governance projects. Some of these projects are delivered for the Government by the Great Britain-China Centre, which itself receives a grant-in-aid from the FCO.

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222095]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Homeworking

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on departmental home working, if he will make it his policy to collate and maintain central records of home working by his Department's staff. [222469]

Meg Munn: Our policy is to encourage flexible working for those staff who would like to take advantage of it. We encourage managers to respond positively to requests for flexible working wherever they can. We have anecdotal evidence of a significant rise in the number of staff working, at least part of the time, from home. But we do not intend to monitor or measure specifically how many staff work from home nor for how many hours/days per week as collating this information would involve disproportionate cost and manual effort.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222104]

Meg Munn: Throughout our overseas network, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has some 3,700 units of permanent residential accommodation—comprising owned, loaned, gifted and leased properties—in 220 locations worldwide for all grades of civil servants.

There are no units of permanent residential accommodation provided for civil servants in the UK.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's public relations framework in each of the last 36 months. [222102]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent the following amounts with the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's public relations framework. There has been no recorded spend by its agencies:

	£
Hill and Knowlton	
2005-06	28,782
2006-07	427,483
2007-08	142,248
Trinedia	
2006-07	909
Lexis Public Relations	
2005-06	24,166

The amounts paid to Hill and Knowlton include £5,104 paid on behalf of UK Trade and Industry.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff from public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies have been seconded to his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [222207]

Meg Munn: One member of staff from a public affairs organisation is currently seconded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). There are no secondments involving staff to the FCO's agencies.

Figures on the number of secondments from 2002 to 2007 were not collated and cannot be obtained without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [222094]

David Miliband: Figures on warrants issued by me under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 are included in the confidential annex of the annual reports of the Interception of Communications Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner, but excluded from the published reports. In his 2007 annual report, the Intelligence Services Commissioner said that he did

"not propose to disclose publicly the numbers of warrants or authorisations issued to the security and intelligence agencies because it would assist those unfriendly to the UK were they able to know the extent of the work (of those agencies) in fulfilling their function".

The Interception of Communications Commissioner in his annual report for 2007 gave a similar explanation for non-disclosure of the number of warrants issued by me. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the Library of the House on 22 July.

Diego Garcia: Detainees

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 932-3W, on Diego Garcia: detainees, what reports his Department has received of allegations relating to the USS Peleliu; and what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the matter. [222706]

Dr. Howells: We have received allegations relating to detainees being held on US naval vessels, including the USS Peleliu, from human rights non-governmental organisations. We have asked the US to clarify their position on detainees being held on ships and to verify previous assurances that detainees had never been held on ships in the territorial waters of Diego Garcia.

The US confirmed to us that no detainees have been held on ships within Diego Garcia's territorial waters since 11 September 2001. They also informed us that

they do not operate detention facilities for terrorist suspects onboard ships, although US naval vessels were used in the early days of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan to screen and temporarily hold a very small number of individuals pending their transfer to land-based detention facilities. These ships were not located within the territorial waters of Diego Garcia. We have no information to suggest that these ships were supplied from the island.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 932-3W, on Diego Garcia: detainees, if he will place in the Library the response received to the request made to the US Secretary of State for clarification on a number of specific issues. [222707]

Dr. Howells: Further to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's letter to US Secretary of State Rice relating to the two renditions through Diego Garcia in 2002, the US have informed us that:

> there have been no other instances in which US intelligence flights landed in the UK, our overseas territories or the Crown dependencies, with a detainee on board since 11 September 2001;
>
> no detainees have been held on ships within Diego Garcia's territorial waters since 11 September 2001; and
>
> no non-US service personnel have been held on Diego Garcia or within its territorial waters since 11 September 2001.

The US have also underlined their firm understanding that there will be no rendition through the UK, our overseas territories and Crown dependencies or airspace without first receiving our express permission.

Diplomatic Immunity

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS, on diplomatic immunity (serious offences), how many of the offences indicated in the table resulted in the diplomatic representative subsequently leaving the United Kingdom in each year from 2003 to 2007. [223005]

Meg Munn: As a result of Foreign and Commonwealth Office representations, the following number of diplomats left the UK during the period 2003-07.

	Number
2003	1
2004	2
2005	2
2006	1
2007	5

Diplomatic Service: Buildings

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what properties are *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented or leased by his Department in (i) Israel, (ii) Malta, (iii) the Holy See and (iv) Egypt; and for what purposes. [222247]

Meg Munn: For security reasons the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not disclose the addresses of staff residential accommodation.

The following are categories of properties owned, rented or leased by the FCO in Israel, Malta, the Holy See and Egypt.

	Office	*Residence*	*Residential*	*Other*[1]
Israel (Tel Aviv)				
Owned	1	1	—	—
Rented	1	—	16	1
Malta (Valletta)				
Owned	—	—	—	—
Rented	1	1	6	—
The Holy See (the Holy See)				
Owned	1	—	—	—
Rented	—	1	—	—

	Office	*Residence*	*Residential*	*Other*[1]	*Compound*
Egypt (Cairo)					
Owned	2	1	6	8	1
Rented	—	—	29	—	—
Egypt (Alexandria)					
Owned	1	1	1	2	1
Rented	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Other properties include land, storage, guard houses, workshops, schools, sports facilities, clubs, swimming pools and children's play areas.

Diplomatic Service: Parking Offences

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 32-34WS, on diplomatic missions (traffic violation fines 2007), how many fines are outstanding, broken down by diplomatic mission; and of what value in each case. [222968]

Meg Munn: The written ministerial statement of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 32-34WS, on outstanding parking fines incurred by diplomatic vehicles names all missions with outstanding fines of £1,000 or more. We have no plans to publish the remaining figures for those missions with outstanding fines of less than £1,000. For small missions or those missions with a small number of outstanding fines, there is some risk that diplomats or their vehicles could be individually identified. This would breach our data protection obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the UK paid in fines for non-implementation or inadequate implementation of EU directives in each year since 1997. [222318]

Mr. Jim Murphy: None. The UK has never been fined for non-implementation or inadequate implementation of EU directives.

European Union: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials worked in the UK Permanent Representative to the EU in each year since 1978. [222227]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The number of UK civil servants from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), or on secondment to the FCO from other Whitehall Departments, who worked at the Office of the UK Permanent Representative to the EU on 1 April each year was:

	Number
2005	93
2006	78
2007	79
2008	81

Our current management information database only holds figures centrally for 2005 (when it was introduced) onwards. We could not compile figures for earlier years without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Government Art Collection

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what items from the Government Art Collection are located in his Ministerial residence in 1 Carlton Gardens. [222987]

David Miliband: The following items from the Government Art Collection are located in the ministerial residence at 1 Carlton Gardens.

Corner of the Stackyard painting by Brian SEAGO;

Orange Dahlias painting by Hugh Micklem;

Full Summer painting by Amy K. Browning;

Petworth Park, as it appeared at the Time of the Annual Dinner given by the late Earl of Egremont, 9 June 1835 print after W. F. Witherington;

P&O Steamship "Niphon" off Hong Kong painting by an unknown artist;

Seated Female Figure watercolour by an unknown Chinese artist;

Seated Male Figure watercolour by an unknown Chinese artist;

Twigs with Leaves and Blossom watercolour by an unknown Chinese artist;

The Cottage, Giverny painting by Charles Conder;

Gillingham Churchyard, Kent painting by William Muller;

Evening Landscape with Church on a Hill painting by Enid Hay; and

Paris Scene painting by Edward Morland Lewis.

Great Britain-China Centre

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of how the Chinese authorities view the work of the Great Britain-China Centre. [222297]

Meg Munn: We believe that the Chinese government welcome the work carried out by the Great Britain-China Centre in facilitating contacts and collaboration with high-level decision-makers engaged in legal and labour reform both in the UK and in China.

The Great Britain-China Centre has delivered many projects on the rule of law with the support of Chinese counterpart organisations and we expect this level of co-operation to continue.

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the level of Serbian co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and *(b)* the prospect of the delivery of Ratko Mladic to the ICTY in the near future. [222825]

Caroline Flint: The Government believe that the arrest and transfer of Radovan Karadzic was a significant step forward in Serbia's co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). ICTY Prosecutor Serge Brammertz visited Belgrade from 10-11 September and briefed the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 15 September. His next report to the UN Security Council is due in December.

In itself, the arrest of Karadzic does not equate to 'full co-operation'. In our view, evidence of full co-operation would be a period of committed and sustained activity by the Serbian Government, demonstrating hundred per cent. effort and political will. Co-operation with the Tribunal covers efforts in a range of areas including: tackling support networks; in meeting requests for documents; in allowing access to archives; in ensuring protection of witnesses; as well as in locating and transferring the two remaining indictees, Goran Hadzic and Ratko Mladic.

Our assessment is that the Serbian Government are working actively to ensure the transfer of the remaining indictees, including Ratko Mladic, to The Hague. We call upon them to make every effort to ensure that transfer takes place as soon as possible.

Iran: Detainees

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Iran urging the release of six members of the Baha'i community arrested in that country on 14 May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [222232]

Dr. Howells: We remain very concerned about the overall treatment of Iran's Baha'i community and, in particular, the continued detention without charge of seven members of their informal leadership since May. We have consistently voiced our concern about this and urged the Iranian government to release them unconditionally. Following a UK recommendation, the EU issued a public statement on 21 May expressing serious concern at the discrimination and harassment of Baha'is in Iran and calling for the release of the Baha'i leaders. In statements to the UN Human Rights

Council in Geneva on 6 June and 16 September, the UK once again called on Iran to release the detained Baha'is. Most recently, and again with strong UK support, the EU issued a further public declaration on 26 September about the increasing pressure on people belonging to religious minorities in Iran in recent months. This declaration set out that the EU was

'deeply disturbed'

by the arrests of members of the Baha'i community and called for their

'immediate and unconditional release'.

We will continue to press Iran to fully uphold the right to freedom of religion and to end the persecution of Baha'is in Iran.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Iranian authorities on the detention on charges of apostasy of Mahmoud Mohammad Matin-Azad and Arash Ahmad-Ali Basirat. [224509]

Dr. Howells: We continue to have concerns about the treatment of Christians in Iran. In recent months we have received a number of reports about detentions of individuals who have converted from Islam to Christianity, including Mahmoud Matin-Azad and Arash Basirat, who were arrested in May and subsequently charged with apostasy. With strong UK support, the EU issued a public declaration on 26 September expressing concern about the deteriorating situation of religious minorities in Iran and calling for the release of Christian converts who had been arrested in recent months. We have since received information that Mr. Matin-Azad and Mr. Basirat have been acquitted of these charges. However, we remain deeply concerned that the new draft penal code would introduce a mandatory death sentence for the 'crime' of apostasy (the death penalty is currently one possible punishment) and the impact that this would have on religious minorities including Christian converts. The EU statement of 26 September also called on Iran to reconsider these elements of the new draft and allow all its citizens the right to exercise freedom of religion or belief in full.

Iraq: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further investigations he has undertaken or has supported into whether the Anfal campaign of Saddam Hussein in 1987-88 was a war crime; and if he will make a statement. [222402]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK helped fund, with international partners, the cost of sending international advisers to the Iraqi High Tribunal to provide advice to the Judiciary on international law—including human rights—in the trial of Saddam Hussein and members of his former regime. On 24 June 2007, the Iraqi High Tribunal reached its verdict on the Anfal trial and sentenced the senior figures involved in the campaign.

The tribunal findings underscore the brutality Saddam Hussein's regime imposed on the Iraqi people and characterised many of the actions that had given rise to the charges as war crimes.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Kosovo, with particular reference to the safety of returning refugees; and if he will make a statement. [223969]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The security situation in Kosovo remains calm but tense. The Kosovo police service, the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation-led peacekeeping force in Kosovo are all engaged in ensuring security on the ground. They have the full support of the UK in ensuring a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

In its declaration of independence, the Parliamentary Assembly of Kosovo committed Kosovo to the principles of democracy and equality for all its citizens contained in the UN Special Envoy's comprehensive settlement proposal. Under the proposal, all refugees and internally displaced persons from Kosovo have the right to return and reclaim their property and personal possessions based on a voluntary and informed decision.

The security situation is only one of a number of factors affecting the returns process. According to the report of the UN Secretary-General on UNMIK of 15 July 2008, the boycott by Kosovo Serb representatives of various decision-making fora on returns, an absence of dialogue and co-operation between the authorities in Pristina and Belgrade and a lack of economic opportunities and occupation of property are obstacles to the returns process. We continue to work with the Governments of Kosovo and Serbia to make progress on these issues.

Mauritania: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to promote peace in Mauritania. [224164]

Dr. Howells: On 6 August I made the following statement on the situation in Mauritania:

"The UK is following the situation in Mauritania closely and is concerned by reports of a military coup. We condemn any attempt to seize power by force and call on all parties to ensure respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to safeguard the well-being of their own citizens and foreign nationals in Mauritania. Britons currently in Mauritania should monitor local press reports and take sensible precautions for their safety".

I remain deeply concerned that the President Abdallahi remains in detention and no progress has been made towards the restoration of democracy. That is why I strongly support statements made by the EU Presidency, the African Union and others which have called for the immediate release of the President and Prime Minister and the restoration of constitutional order. A UN presidential statement agreed on 20 August condemned the coup and called for the immediate restoration of the legitimate, constitutional, democratically-elected institutions.

The UK is working with our international partners to bring pressure to bear on the military regime in Mauritania and to promote peace in the region and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to protect Britons living in and visiting Mauritania since the recent coup in that country. [224165]

Dr. Howells: On 6 August I made the following statement on the situation in Mauritania:

"The UK is following the situation in Mauritania closely and is concerned by reports of a military coup. We condemn any attempt to seize power by force and call on all parties to ensure respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to safeguard the well-being of their own citizens and foreign nationals in Mauritania. Britons currently in Mauritania should monitor local press reports and take sensible precautions for their safety".

On 6 August the Foreign and Commonwealth Office amended the travel advice advising against "all but essential travel to Mauritania" and advising "British nationals to keep a low profile, exercise caution and avoid all areas where there are large gatherings of people". Travel advice was updated again on 23 September and we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

While the UK does not have permanent representation in Mauritania, our honorary consul in Nouakchott offers support and emergency assistance to British nationals in Mauritania.

Morocco: Fisheries

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the indigenous people of Western Sahara receive licensing revenues or aid derived from the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement as a result of UK trawlers' fishing activity in the waters of the occupied Western Sahara. [223165]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Morocco, as the de facto administering power in the Western Sahara, has an obligation under international law to ensure that economic activities carried out under its administration in the territory do not adversely affect the interests of the people of the Western Sahara. This includes revenues from the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement 2006. Trawlers from the UK and those from other EU member states fishing in the waters off Morocco or the Western Sahara must act in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government regard the waters off the coast of Western Sahara as international waters; and what the status is of UK fishing vessels fishing in those waters under the terms of the EU fisheries agreement with Morocco. [223166]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement was agreed in 2006 and sets out the terms for which UK and other European fishing vessels may fish in the waters off the coast of Western Sahara. The agreement does not prejudice the issue of the status of Western Sahara, which the UK regards as undetermined pending UN efforts to find a resolution. Nor does the agreement represent recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over the maritime waters of Western Sahara.

Morocco: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether provisions relating to human rights will be included in the EU agreement with Morocco on advanced status. [223295]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The UK welcomes closer co-operation between the EU and Morocco, including the proposal for an Advanced Status Agreement currently under discussion between EU member states, the European Commission and Morocco. These discussions cover a range of issues, including human rights. Human rights will also remain part of the political dialogue between the EU and Morocco and will be discussed at the sub-committee on human rights, governance and democracy, which is due to meet again later this year.

Morocco: Mining

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of Morocco on the export of phosphate from the Bou Craa mine in Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [222308]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government are aware of the extraction of phosphate in Western Sahara and its exportation. The UK maintains its position that Morocco, as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under administration—including the extraction and exportation of phosphates—do not adversely affect the interests of the people in Western Sahara.

Morocco: Western Sahara

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the occupation of Western Sahara by Morocco will be raised in his discussions with Morocco on advanced status. [222307]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We welcome closer co-operation between the EU and Morocco, including the proposal for an Advanced Status Agreement that is under discussion between EU member states, the European Commission and Morocco. These discussions cover a range of issues, including economic and commercial issues, justice and security, regional co-operation, cultural and educational co-operation and human rights. The issue of Western Sahara, while not discussed within the context of the Advanced Status, remains part of the political dialogue between the EU and Morocco, which will be strengthened as part of the Advanced Status. Western Sahara will also be discussed as part of the political dialogue at the next Association Council in October.

The Government continue to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. To this end and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution (1813) of 30 April, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, and the negotiation process currently under way.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the EU-Moroccan Association Agreement provides for special arrangements for products originating from the Western Sahara such as those provided for in the Association Agreement for products originating in Melilla and Ceuta which are to be accompanied by a certificate stating their origin. [224172]

Dr. Howells: There are no provisions in the current Association Agreement that provide for special arrangements for goods originating from Western Sahara.

However, the Government maintains the position that the Government of Morocco, as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities carried out under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the people of Western Sahara.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals his Department will put forward at the 2009 Preparatory Committee Meeting of the 2010 Review Conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [224215]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The UK will work intensively with international partners before, at and after the 2009 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Committee to identify areas of convergence that can form the basis of a successful outcome to the 2010 NPT Review Conference. In particular we will submit proposals to strengthen the NPT in all its aspects, promoting zero tolerance of proliferation, upholding the rights of all States party to the NPT to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and reinvigorating the commitment of NPT Nuclear Weapons States to nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the effects of the recent decision by the Nuclear Suppliers Group to support a nuclear agreement between the USA and India on the operation of article II of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [224251]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* We assess that the decision by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to allow an exemption for India to the NSG guidelines will not have any effect on the operation of article II of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Article II prohibits the transfer of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; the NSG exemption for India does not allow for such transfers.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage India to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [224252]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Universalisation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is a long-standing UK objective. The UK regularly calls on India to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state. This is a message we convey both publicly and privately.

Official Gifts: Animals

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the policy of the Government is on receipt of wild animals as diplomatic gifts. [224053]

David Miliband *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The rules governing the acceptance of diplomatic gifts do not specifically cover wild animals. We are not aware of any previous instances where wild animals have been given to Diplomatic officers. Each case would be dealt with on its merits. The rules governing gifts are:

Except in very limited circumstances, Diplomatic officers must always refuse a gift. If it is appropriate to accept a gift, they must consider the propriety in doing so and in particular, whether acceptance would give rise to an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest. It must be made clear to the donor that the gift is accepted on behalf of the Government rather than in a personal capacity, which makes it clear that no personal advantage is gained from the gift.

All staff are aware of the regulations concerning the import into the UK of endangered species of animals and Deputy Heads of Mission are asked to ensure that if they are consulted by host governments about gifts for officials, they should explain the difficulties over importing animals into the UK.

Pakistan: Christianity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to voice concerns with the Government of Pakistan on recent reports of the abduction of two Christian girls in southern Punjab on 26 June; and if he will make representations to seek their release and safety. [221458]

Dr. Howells: Our High Commission in Islamabad followed the judicial process of the case of the two Christian sisters Anila and Saba closely through local human rights organisations. Following a hearing at the Lahore High Court on 9 September, Anila was returned to the custody of her parents since she is a minor. However, on the evidence of a medical board, Saba was found to be aged between and 15 and 17 and therefore considered by the court to be able to take her own decision. Saba chose to join her alleged abductors during the course of legal proceedings but we have been unable to interfere in the judicial process of this case. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and from our High Commission in Islamabad will remain in contact with human rights organisations who are considering taking this case forward through the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Since Saba chose to join her alleged abductor, we understand that she would need to challenge the findings of the medical board or testify that her decision was made under duress to establish grounds for appeal.

Whilst this case is recognised as being unique in so far as the parents were granted custody of one child whilst the other was given the right to choose for herself, we—with our European partners—will continue to raise our concerns with the Government of Pakistan over human rights issues and encourage the delivery of pledges that the Government of Pakistan has made as part of its membership of the UN Human Rights Council. These include the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child which Pakistan has ratified. Article 35 of this convention calls on States to take action to prevent the abduction of, sale of or traffic in children for any purpose.

Paraguay: United Nations

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the state of relations between the United Nations and Paraguay; and if he will make a statement. [223124]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The UK has a good relationship with Paraguay; we conduct our affairs via our embassy in Buenos Aires and through our honorary consul in Asuncion. Our officials make regular visits to Paraguay to ensure that this relationship is maintained. The last visit was in August 2008 by our accredited ambassador to Paraguay for President Lugo's inauguration. In addition, the UK also funds project work in Paraguay. For example, this year we are funding projects on climate change and organised crime.

Progressive Governance Summit

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 595W, on the Heads of Government summit, if he will break down the costs incurred on *(a)* branding and *(b)* promotional items; and if what types of promotional material were purchased. [222206]

Meg Munn: The breakdown of costs for the Progressive Governance Summit is as follows:

	Cost (£)
Branding	
Design of brand identity for Progressive Governance Summit	7,637.50
Printing of wall prints, pillar wraps, entrance panels, foamex panels, backdrop and frames for Amber Suite, ivory entrance and marquee	12,208.25
Production of graphics for the above	8,918.25
Installation	1,974.00
Lecterns/riser platforms for press conference	4,124.25
Promotional items	
Delegation booklets	998.75
A4 pads	2,625.42
Folders	1,132.51
Golf umbrellas	904.36
Ballpoint pens	363.07

The promotional items listed were for use by delegates attending the summit with the exception of the golf umbrellas. These were used by officials when accompanying very important personalities on arrival at the Grove Hotel, and to and from the media centre marquee within the hotel grounds.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 595W, on the Heads of Government Summit, if he will break down by category of expenditure the cost of *(a)* the press marquee and *(b)* audio-visual and public address services. [222728]

Meg Munn: The cost breakdown of the press marquee used for the Progressive Governance summit is shown in the following table.

	£
Ground hire	7,000.00
Marquee	47,137.70
Press accreditation/assembly area at the Ramada Inn	1,800.00
This was broken down as:	
Structures	12,848.63
Linings	7,766.75
Power/lighting	3,187.18
W/C facility	3,898.06
Climate control	3,248.88
Staffing	1,551.00
Site facilities	12,807.50
Surcharges	1,829.70

The cost breakdown of the audio-visual public address system used for the Progressive Governance summit was:

	£
Rigging, lighting, set and sound equipment for Amber Suite (Main Plenary)	6,262.75
Rigging, light, sound, power, set and staging equipment for press marquee	17,202.00
Live streaming and relay between Amber Suite and press marquee	9,458.75
Single channel webcast	14,053.00
Hosting and streaming live	493.50
Hosting and streaming archive	2,585.00
Translation equipment and camera system	4,381.58
Crew and associated costs thereof	12,231.75
Pre-production, administration and management fee	17,260.75
Radios and equipment transport/storage	1,633.25

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 595W, on the Heads of Government summit, for how much his Department invoiced Policy Network in respect of the Progressive Governance Conference that preceded the Heads of Government summit. [222729]

Meg Munn: No invoice was issued by the Government as they had no responsibility for the costs of the Progressive Governance Conference. This was the responsibility of Policy Network.

A clear distinction was maintained between costs falling to the summit on 5 April and those which fell to Policy Network, who organised the Progressive Governance Conference on the preceding day.

Sri Lanka: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken following the attack on a staff member of the British High Commission in Sri Lanka on 30 June; and if he will make a statement. [221769]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the letter my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown wrote to him on 29 August concerning this matter. A copy of that letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222172]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work. A stress management framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards, is available to all employees and gives easy-to-use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

Television

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1658W, what premium channels his Department's *(a)* press office and *(b)* private and ministerial offices subscribe to; and at what annual cost. [222204]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office press office, private office and ministerial offices receive the parliamentary television service. The channels included in this service are provided to Parliament, hon. Members of Parliament, Ministers, noble Lords and bona fide users of the system at no cost.

UK-France Helicopter Initiative

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the UK-France helicopter initiative since its announcement; and if he will make a statement. [222320]

Caroline Flint: Since the launch of the helicopter initiative at the UK-France Summit in March 2008, work to increase European helicopter capability has been taken forward in two key work streams: pilot and crew training; and helicopter and equipment upgrades. This work involves experts from the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) institutions, as well as from EU and NATO Member states and partners.

On pilot and crew training, training requirements and providers across Europe have been matched together as an interim measure to provide the necessary pre-operational training. Work has also begun to design common training programmes for helicopter crews to prepare them for multinational operations, in broadly the same way that has happened for fast jet pilots for many years.

On helicopter and equipment upgrades, business cases have been submitted by the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Hungary and Bulgaria for upgrade of their helicopters and their subsequent deployment on multinational operations. We expect further offers to be made in due course. These business cases are being considered by the UK in consultation with other pledged and potential financial contributors. We expect some of these to be approved and receive funding before the end of the year from the Helicopter Fund established by the UK and to which several partners have contributed or pledged funding, including so far Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Finland, Lithuania, Australia and France.

Ukraine: Human Rights

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to *(a)* promote the remembrance and *(b)* increase public awareness of the 1932-33 Holodomor in Ukraine, as agreed during President Yushchenko's visit on 15 May 2008. [222911]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Famine of 1932-33 in Ukraine was an appalling man-made human tragedy. The Government fully recognise their importance in Ukraine's history. In August this year, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary laid a wreath at the Famine memorial in Kiev. In November 2007, the UK supported a resolution at the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and a joint statement at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe honouring the memory of those who perished in the Famine and encouraging the promotion of its remembrance. The Ukrainian Government plan a ceremony to commemorate the 75th anniversary later this year. The UK will support this and other appropriate acts of remembrance. We will continue to seek further ways in which we can promote remembrance and public awareness of the Famine, as agreed during President Yushchenko's visit to the UK.

USA: Administration of Justice

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement as to what representations the UK Mission in Washington DC has made to *(a)* members of the US Congress and *(b)* the US Administration on the Congressional Bill that would preclude UK citizens from pursuing civil litigation in US Federal Courts against the Government of Libya in respect of (i) the Lockerbie/Pan Am 103 bombing, (ii) Libya's involvement in IRA bombings and (iii) the bombing of La Belle disco in Berlin; and if he will make a statement. [223285]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The conclusion of a Government-to-Government agreement between the US and Libya on 14 August will provide for compensation for many of the victims of Libya's past sponsorship of terrorism, while ruling out the possibility of legal action against Libya before the US courts as regards allegations of Libyan involvement in terrorism before 30 June 2006. The Government regard inclusion of the British families of the victims of the bombing of PanAm flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988 in the recipients of compensation as welcome news for these families, but it is regrettable that the deal will not benefit all UK nationals with cases in US courts against Libya.

During the course of negotiations between the US and Libya, the Government made representations to the US Administration that the families of Lockerbie victims and existing UK claimants, with claims before US courts against Libya for its past sponsorship of Irish Republican Army (IRA) terrorist acts (the McDonald case), should be included as recipients of any compensation package. In the event, it proved not possible to include the McDonald case claimants in the recipients of compensation under the US/Libya Agreement. The Government did not make representations to the US Administration regarding the Berlin bombing as there are no UK nationals with cases in US courts against Libya regarding this attack.

A key reason for not including the McDonald claimants in the compensation package was that international and US law do not permit the US Administration to espouse the claims of foreign nationals. Also relevant to the US decision was their assessment of how likely it would be that claims would fall within the jurisdiction of US courts and how likely it would be that they would succeed. We understand from the US that US courts would not have jurisdiction to hear such actions by British nationals against Libya.

It was possible for the UK victims in the Lockerbie case to receive payments from the compensation fund due to the unique circumstances of that case. The Lockerbie bombing was subject to a UN Security Council resolution which required that Libya accept responsibility for the Lockerbie bomb and pay victims' families appropriate compensation. On this basis, the US assisted in bringing closure to that case on behalf of the entire international community and the Libyan Government agreed in 2003 to the payment of compensation to the victims' families. The sums to be paid to those families under the terms of the recent US/Libya agreement reflect the final (so far unpaid) tranche of the previously agreed settlement payments. There is no such mechanism, settlement or court judgment in place in relation to the legal actions regarding the supply of arms by Libya to the IRA.

The Government have already openly responded to queries on the US/Libya deal and will continue to do so. Therefore, we consider that a statement from my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is not necessary.

Vatican: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on *(a)* refurbishment, *(b)* redecorations and *(c)* furnishings for (i) the embassy and (ii) HM Ambassador's residence to the Holy See in each year since 2006; and if he will make a statement. [222246]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No monies have been spent on our embassy's offices in the Holy See in relation to refurbishment, redecoration or furnishing since the beginning of the financial year (FY) 2006-07.

The following table illustrates expenditure on our ambassador's residence in those three categories over the same period. Purchases were made in euros. An average annual exchange rate has been used to give an illustrative sterling figure.

Holy See residence

	Refurbishment		*Redecoration*		*Furnishing*	
	Euro	*Sterling rate (1.47)*	*Euro*	*Sterling rate (1.47)*	*Euro*	*Sterling rate (1.47)*
FY 2006-07	4,600.00	3,129.25	0	0	25,781.00	17,528.10
	Euro	*Sterling rate (1.41)*	*Euro*	*Sterling rate (1.41)*	*Euro*	*Sterling rate (1.41)*
FY 2007-08	1,600.00	1,134.75	2,160.00	1,531.91	14,400.00	10,212.77
	Euro	*Sterling rate (1.27)*	*Euro*	*Sterling rate (1.27)*	*Euro*	*Sterling rate (1.27)*
FY 2008-09	0	0	0	0	1,400.00	1,102.36
Total	6,200.00	4,264.00	2,160.00	1,531.91	41,581.00	28,853.23

The ambassador's residence moved location in 2006 and an additional €20,619 (£14,027) was therefore incurred for removal costs in FY 2006-07. Certain items that were surplus to requirements in the new, smaller residence were either re-used elsewhere or sold. The proceeds of these sales are not reflected in these figures. A limited amount of more appropriate furnishings were bought specifically for the new residence.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* entertainment budget was and *(b)* allowances were of HM Ambassador to the Holy See in each year since 2006. [222353]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our ambassador to the Holy See has been able to draw on an entertainment budget of £36,000 for each of the financial years: 2006-07; 2007-08; and 2008-09. These sums reflect the shift to out-source catering in 2006 and should be seen in the context of savings made from employing fewer full-time permanent domestic staff. In addition the sum of £4,500 was made available to mark the birthday of Her Majesty The Queen, both in 2007 and 2008.

An officer posted as ambassador to the Holy See receives the same allowances as an officer of similar grade posted elsewhere overseas to compensate for the additional costs of living and working overseas. I refer

the hon. Member to the response to written Parliamentary Question 59475 of 23 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 570W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for the future of the British embassy in the Holy See; and if he will make a statement. [222354]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK attaches considerable importance to its relations with the Holy See. There are regular high level visitors from the UK. I visited in June for discussions covering a wide range of foreign policy issues with senior officials in the Secretariat of State and the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. Our embassy will continue to play a critical role in facilitating these links and furthering the warm relationship between the Government and the Holy See.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff were employed by the British embassy in the Holy See in each year since 2006; at what grade each was employed; and how many were locally engaged staff. [222355]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The staffing levels at our embassy to the Holy See have remained constant since 2006. Our ambassador is the sole UK based member of staff and his position is graded at D7 level at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He is supported by two permanent locally engaged (LE) staff at grades LE II and LE III.

Western Sahara: Fishing Vessels

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that fishing by Scottish trawlers in the waters of Western Sahara does not conflict with the UN General Assembly's affirmation of the need to avoid any economic and other activities which adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self Governing Territories. [222314]

Mr. Jim Murphy: All fishing in the waters of Morocco or Western Sahara must be conducted in accordance with the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement 2006. EU member states and the European Commission engaged in detailed discussion about the legality of the Agreement before it was finalised. The EU's Legal Service opinion was that the Agreement was in accordance with international law, including Chapter XI of the Charter of the UN which requires of administering powers that the development of their economic activities in a non-self governing territory does not adversely affect the interests of its peoples. All British vessels and those from other EU member states fishing in the waters of Morocco or Western Sahara are obliged to act in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK embassy in Morocco takes to monitor the human rights situation in the Western Sahara; and when UK diplomats last discussed matters arising with the Moroccan Government. [223296]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The Government are concerned that the long-running dispute over the status of the Western Sahara remains unresolved and that human rights across the region continue to suffer. Staff from our embassy in Rabat continue to monitor the situation through non-governmental organisations, journalists and visits to the territory. Staff from our embassy in Rabat are hoping to visit the territory later this year. Our ambassador in Rabat discusses a range of issues relating to the Western Sahara with Moroccan officials, including the issue of human rights when appropriate.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on whether MINURSO should be mandated to monitor human rights in the Western Sahara. [223297]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The UK is concerned that the conflict in the Western Sahara remains unresolved and we are keen to see a resolution to the issue of the Western Sahara that will provide for a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution offering self-determination of the people of the Western Sahara. To this end, we support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and the negotiations between the parties under his auspices.

The UK also continues to support the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). MINURSO's mandate does not include human rights monitoring. However, success in the negotiations depends upon building greater confidence between the parties. In this respect, the UK remains open to supporting UN human rights monitoring in the Western Sahara if it can be shown to enhance the mutual confidence of the parties.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the treatment of Saharawis by Moroccan police following a Saharawi demonstration in Dakhla on Western Sahara's fisheries resources on 9 July; and if he will make a statement. [221766]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have received reports of confrontations between local fishermen and Moroccan fish importers in the coastal town of Dakhla in Western Sahara throughout the month of July. These events escalated on 21 July when further demonstrations led to attacks on local fishermen and their property in the fishing village of Eintirfit, 65 kilometres from Dakhla.

The Government maintain their position that Morocco, as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under administration, including fisheries activities, do not adversely affect the interests of the people of Western Sahara.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will meet representatives of the Polisario Front to discuss the resolution of conflict over the Western Sahara. [222334]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary does not currently have plans to hold discussions with representatives of the Polisario. However, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary held discussions with consultants working on behalf of the Polisario in January 2008. He reiterated the UK's concerns over the conflict in the Western Sahara and our hope that the negotiations will achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of the Western Sahara. In addition, officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and overseas maintain regular contact with the representatives of the parties to the dispute, including the Polisario.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had at EU level on *(a)* Saharawi rights and *(b)* the resolution of the Western Sahara situation; and if he will make a statement. [222681]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not recently discussed Western Sahara with EU colleagues. However, Government officials are in regular discussion with European colleagues about a range of issues relating to North Africa, including the dispute over the status of Western Sahara and the situation of human rights in the territory. Human rights are an important element of the UK's bilateral relationship with Morocco and play a significant part of the EU's co-operation with Morocco. The issue of Western Sahara remains part of the political dialogue between the EU and Morocco, which will be discussed at the Association Council in October.

While the EU has an important relationship with Morocco, the UK continues to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. To this end and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution (1813) of 30 April, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, and the negotiation process currently underway.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had *(a)* with the UN and *(b)* at EU level on allegations of illegal exploitation of mineral resources in the Western Sahara. [222682]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have not recently discussed the issues of mineral resources in Western Sahara with colleagues at the UN or the EU. Western Sahara was discussed by the UN Security Council in April when Resolution 1813 was passed. Western Sahara was discussed as part of the political dialogue at the EU-Morocco Association Council in July 2007.

However, the Government maintains the position that the Government of Morocco—as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara—is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under administration, including the extraction and exportation of phosphates, do not adversely affect the interests of the people of Western Sahara.

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of a referendum in Western Sahara on independence; and if he will make a statement. [223125]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The UK continues to support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his staff to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution which will provide for the self determination of the people of the Western Sahara.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted UNSC resolution 1813 on 30 April 2008 which extended the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. There are no plans for a referendum to be held in the near future. However, the resolution also called for both sides to maintain their commitment to the ongoing negotiations under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. The UK welcomes the four rounds of talks held between the parties and hopes that a further round will be held later this year.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on *(a)* the EU granting advanced status to Morocco and *(b)* the political process in the Western Sahara. [223776]

Dr. Howells: The UK welcomes closer co-operation between the EU and Morocco, including the proposal for an advanced status agreement currently under discussion between EU member states, the European Commission and Morocco. These discussions cover a range of issues, including economic and commercial issues, justice and security, regional co-operation, cultural and educational co-operation and human rights. The issue of Western Sahara, while not discussed within the context of the advanced status, remains part of the political dialogue between the EU and Morocco, which will be strengthened as part of the advanced status. Western Sahara will also be discussed as part of the political dialogue at the next Association Council in October.

The UK continues to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. To this end and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1813 of 30 April, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his staff and the negotiation process currently underway. We hope a further round of talks will take place later this year.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Mr. Peter van Walsum's briefing to the UN Security Council, UN Doc. S/2006/817 on 16 October 2006, with particular reference to its references to the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [223917]

Dr. Howells: In his report to the UN Security Council (UNSC) of 16 October 2006, Peter van Walsum, the then Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to the Western Sahara, recommended that both parties

"enter into negotiations without preconditions, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political situation that will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara".

This view was subsequently endorsed by UNSC Resolution 1754 (April 2007).

The UK continues to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. To this end and in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1813 of 30 April, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his staff and we have called on the parties to engage in the negotiation process currently underway.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Ammunition

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds have been fired by British forces in Afghanistan since October 2007, broken down by type of ammunition used. [224450]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The amount of ammunition used by UK forces in Afghanistan between October 2007 and 30 September 2008, the latest date for which data is available, is set out in the following table:

Type of Ammunition	*Total*
7.62mm (all variants)	2,492,600
5.56mm (all variants)	2,667,000
0.5 inch (all variants)	398,000
12.7mm (all variants)	1,800
9mm (all variants)	143,000
0.338 inch	13,800
12 bore shotgun (all variants)	300
105mm artillery (all variants)	22,100
30mm Armoured Fighting Vehicle rounds	9,500
30mm Attack Helicopter rounds	39,400

This data has been rounded to the nearest 100 rounds and includes rounds used in training and on operations.

Afghanistan: Casualties

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen have been wounded in Afghanistan as a result of *(a)* friendly fire, *(b)* accident and *(c)* enemy action in each year since 2001. [224510]

Mr. Hutton: The numbers of service personnel injured while serving in Afghanistan are published on the departmental website at fortnightly intervals, two weeks in arrears, at the address given below.

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/DoctrineOperationsandDiplomacyPublications/OperationsInAfghanistan/OpHerrickCasualtyAndFatalityTables.htm.

For convenience, the figures to 15 September, the latest available, are reproduced in the table. It is not possible to provide confirmed figures separately for casualties caused by enemy action and blue-on-blue incidents as in a small number of cases it is not possible definitively to determine whether wounds have been caused by enemy, Afghan or coalition forces. Operational accidents, including road traffic incidents, form approximately 23 per cent. of reported casualties.

	Casualties (Very seriously or seriously injured)
2001	0
2002	1
2003	1
2004	6
2005	2
2006	31
2007	63
2008[1]	44

[1] To 15 September

Afghanistan: China

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Chinese nationals fighting alongside the Taliban have been killed or taken into custody as part of UK military operations in Operation Herrick. [223920]

Mr. Hutton: No individuals killed or detained by UK forces operating in Afghanistan have been confirmed as having Chinese nationality.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with his Chinese counterpart on the security of the China-Afghanistan border against *(a)* drugs, *(b)* arms and *(c)* people smuggling. [223921]

Mr. Hutton: We recognise that Afghanistan's neighbours have an integral role to play in helping Afghanistan to manage her borders. Given the United Kingdom's engagement in Afghanistan border security is regularly discussed with the Afghan authorities. My predecessor also discussed this among a range of issues relating to Afghanistan with the Deputy Chief of the Chinese People's Liberation Army General Staff when he met him in June of this year.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK nationals have been taken into custody following military operations as part of Operation Herrick in Afghanistan. [223226]

Des Browne: As I stated in the answer I gave on 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 66W, to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie), the Ministry of Defence is undertaking a review of its detention records. I will write to the hon. Member when the review has completed.

Substantive answer from Des Browne to Mark Pritchard:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1806W, concerning UK nationals being detained in Afghanistan.

No individuals with confirmed UK nationality have been detained by UK forces as part of Op HERRICK.

Aircraft Carriers

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost for fuel for the recently ordered aircraft carriers in the first 12 months of their operation; and what cost of oil per barrel this calculation assumes. [222521]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The estimated cost of fuel for 12 months is some £12.5 million. This calculation was based on a marine fuel price of £0.47 per litre which corresponds to a Brent crude oil price of approximately $114.60 per barrel.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is intended to man both the Future Aircraft Carriers simultaneously. [224454]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The currently assumed operating pattern for the future carriers requires both ships to be available for operational tasking and therefore fully manned concurrently.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what sources of funding there are for the increase in compensation payments outlined in the Service Personnel Command Paper. [222070]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme is funded from the defence budget, which was detailed to the House in the comprehensive spending review settlement announced by my right hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State for Defence, on 25 July 2007.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many UK personnel were deployed on operations on the most recent date for which figures are available, broken down by location; [222310]

(2) how many UK armed forces personnel were deployed on operations at the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by location of operation. [223848]

Mr. Hutton: The following table shows the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location at 15 September 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Number of UK armed forces personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	*Number*
Total	14,280
of which:	
Afghanistan[2]	8,100
Iraq[2]	3,900
At Sea	830
Qatar	410
Cyprus	280
Oman	260
Kuwait	170
Kosovo	140
Bahrain	80
Bosnia	10
Other	20

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia

[2] Figures for Iraq and Afghanistan have been rounded to the nearest 100 for operational security reasons. Other figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding methods used, the total may not equal the sum of the individual locations.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which tasks have been completed by 7 Regiment Air Army Corps in the last six months. [222494]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 299W.

Armed Forces: Disciplinary Proceedings

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received on the practice of beasting in the Royal Welsh Regiment; which senior officers *(a)* have been admonished and *(b)* are the subject of disciplinary action arising from the practice of beasting in the regiment since 3 July 2006; and if he will make a statement. [223905]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No personnel from any of the three Royal Welsh battalions have been admonished or subject to disciplinary action arising from allegations over the practice of beasting in the regiment since 3 July 2006.

Now that the trial of three individuals from the 2nd Battalion the Royal Welsh Regiment for the manslaughter of Private Gavin Williams on 3 July 2006 has concluded, the Royal Military Police have begun to investigate whether there has been any breach of military law. Once this investigation and any subsequent proceedings have concluded, an Army Board of Inquiry will be held to examine the circumstances surrounding Private Williams' death. It would not be appropriate to comment further at this time.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual cost of employing an *(a)* Unit Welfare Officer and *(b)* padre is. [223501]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Information on the annual cost of employing every group or category of Service personnel, e.g. Unit Welfare Officers (UWOs) and chaplains is not centrally held by my Department. The bulk of these costs, however, comprise pay, employers' national insurance contributions and superannuation charges adjusted for past experiences (SCAPE), for which figures are available and are shown in the following table for UWOs and chaplains.

£

	Average annual pay	Employers' national insurance contribution	SCAPE	Total
Army Unit Welfare Officer (Late Entry Captain rank)	46,100	3,897	16,734	66,731
Chaplain	53,349	4,830	19,366	77,545

There is no single definition of a UWO which applies across the services. At most major Army units, the UWO will be at the rank of Late Entry Captain. The Royal Navy and Royal Air Force provide welfare assistance through the Chain of Command and other mechanisms. An Army Late Entry Captain therefore provides an example of the pay cost of a UWO.

The figure for Service chaplains quoted above reflects an average pay cost based on the tri-Service population who are paid from a tri-Service incremental pay spine.

Armed Forces: Procurement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision his Department has made for research and development expenditure on *(a)* manned contact aircraft, *(b)* Future Surface Combatant, *(c)* next generation helicopters, *(d)* Future Infantry Soldier Technology and *(e)* military satellites in 2008-09. [220467]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Minister of Defence currently plans for expenditure during the financial year 2008-09 on research likely to be exploited in and development directly on *(a)* manned fixed-wing aircraft of some £710 million; *(b)* Future Surface Combatant of some £25 million; *(c)* next generation helicopters of some £160 million; *(d)* Future Infantry Soldier Technology of over £13 million; and *(e)* military satellites of over £2 million.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many members of *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force were recruited from (i) Cumbria and (ii) Copeland in the last five years; [223948]

(2) how many members of HM armed forces recruited from *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland are expected to complete their military service in financial year 2008-09; and how many of them will be eligible to receive recently-announced further education support; [223949]

(3) how many members of HM armed forces who were recruited from *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland who will complete military service in 2008-09 and will be under 60 years of age will qualify for concessionary bus travel. [223950]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1807W.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of members of HM armed forces from *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland completing their military service in financial year 2008-09 who will require specially-adapted social housing; [223954]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* primary school places and *(b)* secondary school places in (i) Cumbria and (ii) Copeland which will be required for children of members of HM armed forces completing their military service in 2008-09. [223955]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on how many personnel leaving the armed forces settle in each county is not held by the Department.

Armed Forces: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel *(a)* were stationed in Scotland, *(b)* were serving with a Scottish regiment, *(c)* were serving with a regiment whose home base was located in Scotland, *(d)* were recruited in Scotland, *(e)* trained in Scotland, *(f)* retired in Scotland and *(g)* identified their nationality as Scottish in each of the services in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [215678]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Figures for the stationed location of UK regular forces since 1997 are available in United Kingdom Defence Statistics (UKDS) table 2.3 and can be found at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=10.203&date=2007-09-26&type=html

Copies of UKDS are available in the Library of the House and also at

www.dasa.mod.uk.

The following table shows the number of UK regular forces who identified their nationality as Scottish in each year since 1997.

April each year	All services	Naval service	Army	RAF
1997	n/a	n/a	13,280	n/a
1998	n/a	n/a	13,290	n/a
1999	n/a	n/a	13,260	n/a
2000	n/a	n/a	13,110	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	12,900	n/a
2002	20,480	3,220	12,760	4,500
2003	20,370	3,230	12,580	4,570
2004	20,180	3,220	12,400	4,550
2005	19,440	3,240	11,820	4,370
2006	18,620	3,200	11,400	4,030

n/a = not available. Naval Service and RAF data are not held centrally prior to April 2002. Following the staged introduction of JPA from April 2006 it is not possible to identify Scottish personnel.

Notes:

1. UK regular forces includes nursing services and excludes full time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.
2. Nationality data comprise of personnel for whom we hold a record of nationality, i.e. excluding those of unspecified nationality.
3. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Further information is either not available or not held centrally and could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training airborne jumps were conducted by service personnel in the armed forces in each month since November 2007, broken down by type of aircraft. [222017]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows parachute descents by entitled service personnel conducted from November 2007 to July 2008 broken down by aircraft type. This includes displays conducted by the RAF Falcons Display team, whose descents can be broken out only at disproportionate cost.

	Total descents	*C130*[1]	*Other aircraft*	*Chinook*	*Other helicopters*
2007					
November	4,420	2,799	1,621	0	0
December	635	635	0	0	0
2008					
January	378	378	0	0	0
February	2,670	946	1,724	0	0
March	1,376	1,361	0	0	15
April	867	835	20	0	12
May	1,260	1,202	0	0	58
June	1,843	1,437	0	40	366
July	1,798	1,300	440	30	28

[1] The breakdown of figures for C130 variants can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 505W, on armoured vehicles, what progress has been made in securing delivery of the Vector armoured vehicles. [221900]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All Vector Protected Patrol Vehicles, including the ambulance variants, were delivered by January 2008.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on taking forward the disarmament laboratory initiative at AWE Aldermaston; what the total budget allocated to the project is; how many staff are working on the project; and what security clearance is required for project participants. [223893]

Mr. Hutton: The "disarmament laboratory" initiative is not a discrete AWE project but rather a concept under which the UK is trying to move the disarmament agenda forward as a whole. AWE's contribution to the "disarmament laboratory" is being conducted under the Arms Control Verification Research programme.

This research programme started in April 2000 and the total spend is forecast to exceed £3 million by the end of FY08-09.

Within AWE a dedicated team of five staff form the core of the Arms Control Verification Research programme. This team draws on experts and resources from other AWE programme areas as well as wider government. In order to fully understand the implications of potential verification technologies some of the research is UK only and remains classified; staff working on this research are appropriately security cleared. The joint research with Norway and the non-governmental organisation VERTIC carries no proliferation risk and is unclassified; special security clearances are not required.

BAE Mantis

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the in-service date for the Mantis unmanned aerial vehicle. [223989]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Departmental arrangements with BAE Systems concerning the Mantis UAV—unmanned aerial vehicle—project are currently limited to involvement in the early stages of a technology demonstrator programme. No commitments have been made by the Department beyond the current stage of the programme.

Bye-Law Review Team

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference are of the Army's Byelaws Review Team. [223736]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The terms of reference for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Byelaws Review Team are to review all of the MOD byelaws and bring them up to date.

More detailed information on the terms of reference as well as other useful background information can be found online at:

http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk/byelaws/Internet/Intro.php

Cluster Munitions

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries of service personnel resulted from cluster munitions and other similar ordnances in each of the last five years. [222525]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There has been one death and no injuries to UK service personnel as a result of cluster munitions or similar ordnances in the last five years.

In March 2003, in Iraq, a UK serviceman was attempting to diffuse an M42 bomblet, which unfortunately exploded and killed him.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cluster munitions were deactivated *(a)* in the field of action and *(b)* amongst UK stores of weapons in each year since 1997, broken down by location. [222526]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information which would confirm how many cluster munitions have been deactivated in each respective operational theatre since 1997 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Stocks of all UK cluster munition types have been withdrawn from service and a number are currently

awaiting disposal, but they are not deactivated while being held in UK stores; deactivation occurs at the point of disposal.

I can confirm that the disposal of the total stock of 82,900 high explosive M483 shells began in April 2005 and was completed in July this year and that the total stock of 3,687 BL755 bombs (including variants), have been removed from the Ministry of Defence's inventory and shipped to Germany for physical disposal, which is expected to be completed in 2009.

The disposal process in respect of our total stock of 7,282 multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) M26 rocket pods began in September 2007 and should be completed by the end of 2013.

A contract has recently been placed for the disposal of 4,270 CRV-7 multi-purpose sub-munition (MPSM) warheads; disposal is due to complete in 2009. The disposal of 56,000 L20A1 extended range bomblet shells (ERBS) is currently the subject of a competitive tendering process, and it is expected that disposal will be completed in 2010.

In all cases, disposal includes both the munitions and their sub munitions.

Dangerously Ill Forwarding of Relatives

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the standard Dangerously Ill Forwarding of Relatives (DILFOR UK) payment was in the latest period for which figures are available; [222068]

(2) what his Department's annual expenditure was on the *(a)* Dangerously Ill Forwarding of Relatives (UK) and *(b)* Dangerously Ill Forwarding of Relatives (Overseas) programmes for each year since 2003. [222069]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There is not a standard payment for the Dangerously Ill Forwarding of Relatives (UK) (DILFOR (UK)). Each payment made will vary depending on the number of relatives, travel and accommodation costs incurred. Information about the average DILFOR (UK) payment is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information about the Department's annual expenditure on DILFOR (UK) and DILFOR (Overseas) for each year since 2003 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Equipment: Procurement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which 10 companies have supplied his Department with the most equipment in the last 12 months; and what the UK-based workforce is of each company. [222340]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This answer takes "most equipment" to mean the total value of assets delivered, as it is a more relevant measure than volume or quantity. The 10 companies that received the highest total direct payments[1] from the Ministry of Defence during financial year 2007-08 in respect of equipment procurement, along with the approximate number of UK-based employees of each company, are shown in the following table.

Company	*Employees*[2]
BAE Systems plc	34,000
Thales	9,000
EDS Defence Limited	16,500
The Boeing Company	600
Westland Helicopters Limited	[3]3,500
Devonport Royal Dockyard Limited	[4]7,200
MBDA UK Limited	2,600
Europaams SAS	Nil
General Dynamics UK Limited	1,700
Raytheon Systems Limited	1,300

[1] Expenditure excludes payments made through other nations or international procurement agencies on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

[2] Employee numbers are based on information provided by the companies and BERR.

[3] Westland Helicopters Ltd: Employee numbers refer to the UK based employees of parent company Agusta Westland.

[4] Devonport Royal Dockyard Ltd: Employee numbers refer to the UK based employees of Babcock Marine which includes Devonport Royal Dockyard Ltd.

Defence Estates

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans are in place for the re-investment of capital generated by the sale of land identified as disposable in the Defence Estates Development Plan. [222493]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The capital generated from the planned sale of MOD land is reinvested in defence in accordance with Treasury guidelines, and in line with our priority of support to our people, including improved accommodation.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what acreage of land is owned by his Department and used for non-military agricultural purposes; and for what reasons such land is held. [222529]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Data regarding the amount of defence land used for agricultural purposes have not been reported since 2005. At that time some 106,000 hectares of defence land was used for agricultural purposes. Agricultural land is held by the Department to provide a realistic military training environment.

Defence Training Review Programme

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value of the contract for package 1 of the Defence Training Review programme is. [223990]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The value of the DTR package 1 contract is currently estimated at £9.2 billion, while the residual costs to the MOD are estimated to be about £2.8 billion. These figures will continue to be subject to the outcome of negotiations with Metrix and the ongoing review of the proposal and assumptions related to the project.

Defence: Secondary Education

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) who has *(a)* contributed resources to, *(b)* offered to develop and *(c)* taken part in online polls relating to the Defence Dynamics e-learning tool; [208881]

(2) what the results were of *(a)* the online polls and *(b)* the rating of lessons in relation to the Defence Dynamics e-learning tool website; [208882]

(3) what *(a)* representations he has received on and *(b)* audit he has conducted of the e-learning product Defence Dynamics; and if he will place in the Library copies of the representations received; [209037]

(4) how many students have used the e-learning product Defence Dynamics; [209038]

(5) how many people have registered on the Defence Dynamics website; [209039]

(6) who have registered on the Defence Dynamics website have *(a)* used interactive exercises, *(b)* registered a class, *(c)* used teaching materials, *(d)* accessed the multimedia library, *(e)* downloaded multimedia resources, *(f)* used forums, *(g)* filed a complaint and *(h)* reported technical problems; [209040]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Andrew Murrison:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your parliamentary questions on 12 June 2008,

Official Report, columns 420-21W about Defence Dynamics. As you asked a number of questions I will answer each in turn.

Who had contributed resources to, offered to develop and taken part in online polls relating to Defence Dynamics.

Kids Connections are the agency commissioned by the Central Office of Information (COI), on behalf of the MOD, to produce Defence Dynamics. Under supervision of the MOD Schools Adviser, Kids Connections has been responsible for creating the site from conception stage through to its current maintenance and continuing development. Kids Connections work in partnership with a panel of practising teachers from across the whole of the UK.

As interest in the programme develops so more offers of assistance in developing resources have been made. Offers have mostly come from within the Department. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has offered to be more formally involved in reviewing materials.

What were the results of online polls and lesson ratings.

The online poll asks a range of questions relating to frequency of use, relevance, appropriateness and future planning.

On average 20 teachers participate per month.

On average 7 students participate per month.

The average lesson rating is 8 out of 10.

What representations have we received and what audit has been conducted of the e-learning product.

Many representations have been made on the materials contained on the website. Some can be found on the discussion strands on the site itself, others have been made by teachers in face-to-face contact at national Education Shows and in other meetings with teachers. Almost all reflect positive support for the resource. The remainder suggest ways in which lesson plans might be improved. It would be difficult to place these representations in the Library and they are best viewed in the context of the website at www.defencedynamics.mod.uk.

The resource was launched in November 2007 with the first major audit of the website due at the end of 2008. The audit will be managed by an external organisation selected by COI. I shall place a copy of the audit report in the Library of the House when this becomes available.

How many people have registered oh the website and how many students have used it.

2,961 teachers have fully registered on the Defence Dynamics website. Additionally non-registered teachers and Heads of Department also use the site.

It is not possible to track unique user hits due to multiple students sharing PC's and IP addresses in schools and there is no registration process. In total there have been 69,887 page views on the student website up to 12 June 2008.

Access, registration, usage and technical issues.

The following points address the questions you raised on access, registration and technical issues.

The total number of interactive exercises used is 131.

There are currently 174 registered classes. Each class roughly averages 25 students, thus approximately 4,350 students have been registered. If a teacher registers a class it indicates a commitment to using the site and reflects well on the quality of the material contained.

It is not possible to accurately report the number of individuals who have 'used' the teaching materials as they are available to registered and non-registered users.

1,774 teachers have viewed and downloaded at least one resource in the multimedia library.

2, 014 videos have been downloaded, however these may be shared and therefore no exact user figure is available.

23 teachers have taken part in 16 forum threads.

Number of complaints

The number of complaints by registered users is as follows:

Error in lesson materials - 5 teachers.

Registration issue - 7 teachers.

Technical issues -11 teachers.

How many schools have acquired and used the multi-media tool cited at page 25 of the Report of Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces.

The number of schools that have registered to the website to access the resources is 2,322 and a further 1,558 schools have registered to receive the CD Rom only but have not registered to the website. Other youth organisations and non-registered schools are also using Defence Dynamics resources - thus exposing more young people to these educational resources.

In addition, 1,774 registered teachers have downloaded at least one element from Defence Dynamics and 23,493 anonymous users (not logged in) have viewed resources.

Defence Dynamics and the former Schools Presentation Teams are not directly comparable because two different media are involved. However, we expect that the cumulative effect of students interacting with Defence Dynamics lessons will produce a similar result to that of the half-day Team presentation.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul flights. [221938]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since 2006, the MOD has offset Head Office non-operational official and ministerial flights, through the Government's Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) managed by EEA Fund Management. For the year 2006-07, the MOD paid the total offsetting cost of £180,599.38 to the GCOF. This is broken down as follows:

	Km
Short haul	42,872,925
Long haul	24,373,071

MOD is currently calculating its return for 2007-08.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether those staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [221946]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All official travel is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code and internal Policy Rules and Guidance. Ministry of Defence or Defence Agency staff entitled to first or business class air travel are permitted to travel in a cheaper class if they wish. Many business areas actively encourage staff to travel by the most economical means in order to reduce travel and subsistence costs.

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [221949]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1169W, on departmental home working, if he will make it his policy to collate and maintain central records of all home working by his Department's staff. [222473]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since November 2006, information about applications to move to home working have been held centrally for civil service staff in the Department, excluding the trading fund agencies. However, the Department has no plans to hold details centrally of discretionary arrangements for staff to work at home on an ad hoc basis.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [221945]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence does not provide any permanent residential accommodation in the UK for civil servants.

The following table gives details of residential accommodation provided overseas to civil servants and other entitled civilians, including but not limited to: teachers, welfare workers, contractors, customs officials and meteorological officers.

	Number
Cyprus	471
Falkland Islands	16
Ascension Island	13
Germany	1,558
Europe	45

The grades of these civilian occupants are not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Property

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many houses owned by his Department in each location in Argyll and Bute constituency are empty; and how many years it is since each was last occupied. [220166]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* In the UK and overseas, a number of service family accommodation (SFA) properties are 'void'. Void SFA are those properties that are unoccupied to allow for planned moves of service units, planned upgrades, sale or release, modernisation or demolition.

Within the Argyle and Bute constituency there are 249 void SFA at Rhu and Helensburgh. The 169 void SFA properties at Helensburgh have been void for the following periods:

	Number
Under 3 months	32
Between 3 months and 6 months	15
Between 6 months and 12 months	37
Between 1 year and 2 years	37
Between 2 years and 3 years	28
Between 3 years and 4 years	17
Between 4 years and 5 years	3
Total	169

The 80 void properties at Rhu have all been empty for five years.

These properties have remained void subject to the outcome of the Naval Base Review, which was started in September 2006 and completed in June 2007. We are now identifying future requirements for SFA. Once this work is complete we will consider whether it would be possible to dispose of any of the properties at Helensburgh and Rhu.

Departmental Publicity

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of materials his Department has distributed to schools in the last three years. [222549]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have provided copies of all the material released by central MOD schemes, Single Service teams and the MOD Schools team to the Library of the House.

A number of MOD resources, notably Defence Dynamics, are online resources that are designed for web usage and are constantly refreshed. It is not possible or practical to provide print outs or electronic downloads because of the size. Additionally, the web will always provide the most up to date version.

In order to access the Defence Dynamics website:

www.defencedynamics.mod.uk

a generic account has been set up for House of Commons Library users. Access details are:

Username: hofclibrary

Password: hofclibrary

The site can be accessed at

http://target.raf.mod.uk/Default.aspx

by using the following log-in details:

Username: hofclibrary

Password: hofclibrary

It is not possible to track every item that may have been given out at local establishment level.

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [221948]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence does undertake operations involving powers described and governed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA'). RIPA provides that oversight of the use of these controlled powers is by regular inspection and publication of annual public reports by independent Commissioners and it is a matter for the Commissioners what details they disclose.

Figures on public authority use of covert techniques controlled by the RIPA are published annually by the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner who each have particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the House Library on 22 July. The figures provided in the reports are not broken down by individual public authority use of specific covert techniques as, depending on the particular technique and authority using it, this could either reveal sensitivities or be misleading. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant Commissioner.

Devonport Dockyard

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of the Equality Act 2006 on redundancy terms for employees at Devonport Dockyard aged 50 years and over. [222418]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is for Babcock Marine, the owner of the Devonport dockyard, to determine the terms of redundancy for its employees, including the requirements of legislation. Any assessment of the effects of the Equality Act 2006 on such redundancy is therefore a matter for the company.

EC Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 449W, on EU defence policy, how many departmental *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel work in each position listed. [222065]

Mr. Hutton: All 19 staff posts listed in the sections "EU Military Staff" (18) and "EU Military Committee" (1) are filled by UK military staff officers.

For the "European Defence Agency" and "Other EU Institutions" sections, the following numbers of *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel work in each position listed:

European Defence Agency

Capabilities Director (1 UK military staff officer):

Responsible for the leading of Agency work in European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) activities related to capabilities development, from goal definition to project design, and including capability harmonisation, assessment and evaluation.

Head of Capabilities Development Support Unit (1 UK military staff officer):

Supports the capabilities director in the co-ordination of the directorate's work, and in managing external interfaces (with member states, European Union military staff (EUMS) and other key stakeholders).

Research and Technology (R&T) Assistant Director (1 MOD civilian):

Responsible for preparing strategies and policies for increasing co-operation and strengthening of defence R&T and the European defence technological and industrial base.

Principal Officer for Armaments Co-operation (1 MOD civilian):

Responsible for supporting the armaments director in his relations with OCCAR (Organisation conjointe de coopération en matière d'armement) and member states regarding the management of co-operative programs.

Senior Officer for Defence Market (1 MOD civilian):

Responsible for assessing and analyzing the European defence equipment market including collecting, comparing and reporting quantitative and qualitative data, and ensuring close relations with the Commission, industry and others regarding industrial issues.

Principal Officer for Defence Industry (1 MOD civilian):

Responsible for contributing to assessing and analysing the European defence technological and industrial base (DTIB), preparing strategies and policies regarding DTIB and developing measures for enhanced security of supply of defence goods between European nations.

Other EU Institutions

European Council General Secretariat—Seconded National Expert (1 MOD civilian):

Desk officer responsible for providing advice and briefings on EUFOR ALTHEA (EU mission to Bosnia-Herzegoina).

European Commission—Seconded National Expert (1 MOD civilian):

Desk officer in DG Environment.

European Global Navigation Satellite System Supervisory Authority (GSA)—Seconded National Expert (1 MOD civilian):

Security advisor and project officer for the Galileo project.

EDF

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF energy; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF energy in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221844]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on contracts the Department and its agencies have with EDF energy is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I am able to provide figures on MOD payments to companies and entities forming part of EDF Energy plc as it was structured at 31 March 2008. Data are provided from 2001-02 onwards. Before this there was no record of any MOD payments to EDF Energy plc or companies and entities that currently belong to it.

The payments made are detailed in the following table. The data exclude payments made by the MOD trading funds, for which records are not held centrally. The purpose of these payments was for the provision of utilities (e.g. electricity) for the MOD.

Annual MOD payments to EDF Energy (VAT exclusive at current prices)

FY	*£000*
2001-02	70
2002-03	140
2003-04	190
2004-05	260
2005-06	340
2006-07	420
2007-08	230

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or the administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222282]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In the Ministry of Defence there are four members of staff working exclusively on intergovernmental aspects of European Security and Defence Policy issues in the Directorate for Policy on International Organisations, and three full-time members of staff dealing with EU business in the Defence Equipment and Support International Relations Group. A number of other staff throughout the Department are involved for part of their time in a wide range of EU business.

The MOD has nine military and civilian staff in the UK Military Representation to the EU in Brussels and two seconded to the UK diplomatic representation to the EU to work on European Security and Defence Policy. In addition 18 British military officers are seconded to the European Union Military Staff, and one British military officer seconded as the Military Assistant to the permanent Chairman of the EU Military Committee. One MOD civilian is seconded to each of the European Council General Secretariat, the European Commission and the European Global Navigation Satellite System Supervisory Authority (GSA) and six military and civilian staff are seconded to the European Defence Agency.

First Sea Lord

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the elements of the First Sea Lord's job which the post holder would *(a)* be unable to conduct and *(b)* find difficulty in accomplishing without sea command experience. [222010]

Mr. Hutton: Holding a command at sea is not a pre-requisite to hold the Office of First Sea Lord. A candidate for the position of First Sea Lord is selected on merit against a range of competences. The incumbent would, however, have naturally attained a wide breadth of experience during their service career and would have completed the most demanding appointments, of which operational command at sea is clearly a prime example. The ability to undertake the full range of duties expected of the First Sea Lord is not, however, dependent on whether or not the individual has held a sea command.

Future Rapid Effect System

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Future Rapid Effects System programme was discussed at the meetings between the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support and GDUK on 13 September 2007 and 29 January 2008; and what ministerial meetings were held with either of the other principal bidders between June 2007 and June 2008. [221920]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Future Rapid Effects System programme was discussed in general terms at the meetings between the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support and GDUK on 13 September 2007 and 29 January 2008.

No ministerial meetings were held between June 2007 and June 2008 with the other principal bidders.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to establish a Status of Forces Agreement with the government of Iraq. [222585]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 723-24W, to the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price).

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Oral Statement made by the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, on Iraq, (1) when Operation Charge of the Guards *(a)* commenced and *(b)* ended; [222932]

(2) what objectives were set for Operation Charge of the Guards; [222933]

(3) how many British troops participated in Operation Charge of the Guards. [222934]

Mr. Hutton: Charge of the Knights is the codename given by the Government of Iraq to a series of operations, led by the Iraqi Security Forces, which were aimed at defeating militia groups, enforcing the rule of law and thereby enabling reconstruction and economic development. Operations under this codename commenced on 25 March 2008 and concluded on 19 June 2008. However, work to achieve the wide-ranging objectives of this series of operations continues.

It is very difficult precisely to define how many UK military personnel were involved in this operation: in principle the entire UK military force in Southern Iraq acted in support. This support ranged from direct involvement with the embedded training teams, through the logistics and engineering staff who performed a critical role in supporting Iraqi and UK units during the operation, to the UK medics in our hospital who provided treatment to those injured during the fighting. As the Prime Minister made clear in his statement to the House on 22 July 2008, more than 800 UK personnel are now embedded with the Iraqi army.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 304W, on Iraq: peace keeping operations, what recent reports he has received on the *(a)* detention and *(b)* status of Abdul Razzaq Ali al-Jedda; what representations he has received on the case; and if he will make a statement. [222503]

Mr. Hutton: Mr. al-Jedda was released from UK custody in December 2007.

Prior to his release Mr. al-Jedda was held as a security internee by UK forces in Iraq because it was assessed that he posed a threat to the lives of Multi- National Forces personnel, Iraqi security personnel and Iraqi civilians. In December 2007, on the basis of the latest intelligence and security assessment, it was decided that it was no longer necessary to intern Mr. al-Jedda and he was released to a safe location in Iraq.

Mr. al-Jedda's internment was pursuant to UNSCR 1546 and subsequent resolutions, and was found to be lawful by the House of Lords.

Kosovo: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many patrols of each type were conducted by the 2 Battalion, The Rifles during their recent deployment to Kosovo. [222019]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During their recent deployment to Kosovo, 2nd Battalion, the Rifles, carried out approximately 10 framework patrols (foot patrols and vehicle checkpoints) per day across their area of operations.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel were *(a)* injured and *(b)* wounded during the 2 Battalion, The Rifles recent deployment to Kosovo. [222020]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: One soldier was taken ill briefly with heat illness and received treatment in theatre; aside from this there were no recorded instances of UK personnel being injured or wounded during 2nd Battalion, the Rifles' recent deployment to Kosovo.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of each type of ammunition were fired by the 2 Battalion, The Rifles during their recent deployment to Kosovo. [222073]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following numbers of rounds were fired by 2 Rifles. All but one, a 5.56 mm round used to kill an aggressive feral dog attacking one of the patrols, were used for training and calibration of weapons after transit.

Type of round	*Number fired*
5.56 mm Ball	902
338 Sniper Ball	163
5.56 mm 4 Bit Belted	800
7.62 mm 4 Bit Belted	360
Green Smoke Screen Training Round	1

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are plans to pool the burden of the *(a)* maintenance, *(b)* provision of spare parts and *(c)* any other requirements for the future operation of the A400M cargo plane between EU member states. [222075]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The A400M in service support programme is in the assessment phase where all options, including possible partnering with other nations, are being considered. This phase is expected to last until July 2009 when a Main Gate Business Case will be submitted to the Investment Approvals Board with the preferred in service option identified.

Military Flying Training System

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any savings will have been forgone as a result of the time taken to sign the Military Flying Training System contract; and if he will make a statement. [222342]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The contract term for the Military Flying Training System is 25 years from the date of contract award. The exact timing of its placement does not impact on the scale of benefits.

Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what evaluation was made of the compatibility with the United Kingdom obligations under Article 1 of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) when deciding to invite Norway to participate as a non-nuclear state party to the NPT in the disarmament laboratory project on nuclear warhead dismantlement at AWE Aldermaston. [223894]

Mr. Hutton: The joint research between the UK's Atomic Weapons Establishment, several Norwegian laboratories and the non-governmental organisation VERTIC on the verification of warhead dismantlement is being conducted in full accord with the mutual obligations under Articles I and II of the NPT. The underlying aim of the research is to investigate, under a hypothetical future verification regime, what technical evidence and assurances could be demonstrated to third parties without undermining national security or releasing proliferation sensitive information. The research is specifically designed to examine issues of verification while avoiding the use of sensitive design information or materials; constraints, necessarily levied by the NPT, that inspired the initiative.

Open Skies Treaty: Russia

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with his Russian counterpart on Russia's continuing cooperation on the Open Skies Treaty. [223918]

Mr. Hutton: There are no plans to hold discussions with the Russian Defence Minister on the Open Skies Treaty.

RAF St. Athan

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the enhanced repair and maintenance facility for military equipment at RAF St. Athan will have the capability to repair and maintain road transport carriers for nuclear weapons. [223892]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The large aircraft repair and maintenance facility operated by the Defence Support Group at MOD St. Athan has no capability to repair and maintain road transport carriers for nuclear weapons, and there are no plans to develop such a capability there.

Sandhurst

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which countries cadets have attended RMA Sandhurst in the last three years. [223824]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) on 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2016-20W.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223030]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Weapons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* SA-80 assault rifles, *(b)* 9mm Browning pistols and *(c)* other weapons, listed by type, were reported (i) lost or missing and later recovered and (ii) lost or missing and not recovered by armed forces in the United Kingdom in each month since November 2007. [222066]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The latest available statistics report no lost or missing SA 80 assault rifles or 9 mm Browning Pistols since November 2007. Between that date and July 2008, one Explosive Ordnance Disposal Disrupter device was reported lost or missing and was later recovered; and one Signal Pistol was reported lost or missing and has not been recovered.

Written Questions: Government Responses

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to the letter of 29 July from the hon. Member for Henley regarding a constituent, Alan Hill, and the sale of property by the Ministry of Defence. [224520]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The letter dated 29 July was not received in MOD until a copy was forwarded under cover of the hon. Member for Henley's letter of 10 September. My predecessor replied on 2 October.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Accountancy: Standards

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to ensure that people may only advertise their services as accountants once they have undertaken professional requirements similar to those required of solicitors and barristers. [222490]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have no plans to regulate those who provide accountancy services in this way. It is not persuaded that introducing such regulation would justify the costs to business.

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Home Office, *(b)* the Treasury, *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(d)* the Scottish Executive on the economic impact of minimum pricing of alcohol. [221890]

Mr. Thomas: A number of Government Departments, including BERR, the Home Office and HM Treasury, are engaged in considering a range of possible measures aimed at helping to reduce alcohol related harms. BERR has had no separate discussions on these matters with either HM Revenue and Customs or the Scottish Executive.

Bank Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the findings contained in the Office of Fair Trading's market study of personal current accounts. [224300]

Mr. Thomas: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) published its market study on personal current accounts on 16 July. The OFT is engaging with interested parties to try and achieve greater clarity, transparency and consumer empowerment in this market. The consultation ends on 31 October. This matter therefore remains with the OFT for the time being. Depending on the outcome of the consultation the OFT hopes to publish a further or final report early in 2009.

Bankruptcy

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people have filed for personal bankruptcy by region in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [224112]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Table 1 below shows the number of bankruptcies in each region of England and Wales for each quarter of 2007, derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals[1].

[1] Figures for Q1 2008 and Q2 2008 are not yet available on this basis.

Table 1: Bankruptcies in 2007

Region	*January-March*	*April-June*	*July-September*	*October-December*	*Annual total*
East Midlands	1,527	1,288	1,210	1,163	5,188
East of England	1,998	1,793	1,692	1,651	7,134
London	1,868	1,707	1,592	1,460	6,627
North East	918	930	831	751	3,430
North West	1,976	1,913	1,845	1,717	7,451
South East	2,728	2,565	2,365	1,984	9,642
South West	2,184	1,956	1,853	1,743	7,736
Wales	782	728	761	692	2,963
West Midlands	1,656	1,493	1,443	1,362	5,954
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,588	1,531	1,474	1,359	5,952
Not Allocated	681	625	590	494	2,390
Grand Total[1]	17,906	16,529	15,656	14,376	64,467

[1] Totals recorded here are not entirely consistent with those published, as they are based on an extract from a live database taken on a particular date and using a slightly different reporting system.

Note:

Missing cases are those where a region could not be assigned to the bankruptcy due to missing or invalid postcode information.

Companies

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many companies were removed from the *(a)* Register of Companies in England and Wales and *(b)* Register of Companies in Scotland following the submission of a form 652a in each of the last 10 years; and how many such companies (i) had not previously filed a set of accounts and (ii) had not filed accounts in the preceding 12 months but had done so previously. [221750]

Mr. Thomas: The number of companies removed from the Register of Companies in England and Wales, and Scotland following the submission of a form 652a in each of the last 10 years is as follows.

Financial year	*England and Wales*	*Scotland*
1998-99	47,578	3,485
1999-2000	55,345	3,700
2000-01	72,351	4,010
2001-02	78,172	5,195
2002-03	91,080	4,925
2003-04	93,334	3,383
2004-05	97,367	5,547
2005-06	104,644	5,850
2006-07	119,112	6,668
2007-08	117,428	5,857

Details of companies who had not previously filed a set of accounts and had not filed accounts in the preceding 12 months and had accounts overdue at the time of their removal is not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications to have a company removed from the *(a)* Register of Companies in England and Wales and *(b)* Register of Companies in Scotland using form 652a where the company in question had been incorporated for a period of less than 21 months were rejected due to an objection received from HM Revenue and Customs during 2007. [221751]

Mr. Thomas: The number for England and Wales was 214. The number for Scotland was 46.

Day Care: Pay

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimates he has made of the number and proportion of child day-care establishments that pay at least one member of staff below the national minimum wage. [223754]

Mr. McFadden: Data on payments made by individual companies are not available. They would, in any case, be disclosive.

Data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings datasets from the ONS suggest that there were in total around 6,000 employees paid below the national minimum wage in the standard industrial

classification sector 'Social Work Activities Without Accommodation[1]', this sector includes child day-care activities but it also includes elements of social work beyond the child care sector—see footnote.

However, this does not necessarily indicate non-compliance on behalf of the employer as certain groups of people are exempt from NMW regulations including, for example, those on Government training schemes and apprentices under the age of 19.

[1] SIC code 85.32 Social work activities without accommodation includes:

Child day-care activities, including day-care activities for handicapped children;

Day-care activities for disabled adults;

Day facilities for homeless and other socially weak groups;

Social, counselling, welfare, refugee, referral and similar activities;

Charitable activities such as fund raising or other supporting activities aimed at social work.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the operating costs of the Defence Export Services Organisation were in each of the last five years. [222767]

Mr. Thomas: For financial year 2007-08 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Energy on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 639W. For financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 196W and for financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces on 24 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 845W.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department and its predecessors have participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul flights. [222048]

Mr. Thomas: The Department and its predecessor the DTI have participated in the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund since 1 April 2006.

For the period 2006-07 details are only available for short haul and long haul flights. The number of air miles used to calculate the departmental payment was:

	Number of air miles
(a) Short haul	3,557,092
(b) Long haul	7,773,937

For the period 2007-08 the number of air miles used to calculate the departmental payment was:

	Miles
(a) Domestic	1,850,032
(b) Short haul	2,798,771
(c) Long haul	11,157,261

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether those staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or in kind from the saving. [222055]

Mr. Thomas: In BERR, the criteria for booking flights should be value for money and flights selected on the basis of cost and convenience. No matter what class of travel is used, staff travelling on official business must take advantage of any cheap facilities which maybe available (e.g. special offers, restricted tickets) wherever practical. Should staff choose to travel in a cheaper class than permitted, they may do so.

Staff are not entitled to any benefits in monetary terms or in kind from any savings made.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 6 October 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/3620) whether those staff of (a) his Department and (b) its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform expects staff to use low cost airlines wherever possible. Business class air travel is used on an exceptional basis for a very small number of mostly European and International flights.

Flights are booked through official channels and no remuneration or benefits related to the cost of air travel are paid directly to staff.

It is not possible for staff to claim for savings based on a lower air travel class entitlement.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 6 October 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Members of staff who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to travel in a cheaper class to their destination. There is no benefit in monetary terms, or kind, from the savings made.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions his Department and its predecessor instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220812]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221089]

Mr. Thomas: BERR are working toward achieving the energy efficiency targets expressed in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) framework. The targets set are to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings on the estate by 15 per cent. in terms of KWH usage and that used per square metre by 2010-11 and 30 per cent. by 2020-21.

The main strategy is to gain efficiencies as a result of the estate strategy to reduce the physical size of the estate and the number of buildings. As a result the BERR HQ estate has been reduced by 46 per cent. with a decrease of 11.2 per cent. in energy consumption since 1999-2000. This included the introduction of flexible desking throughout our main buildings on the basis of eight work stations for every 10 staff.

BERR has also implemented a number of energy efficiency initiatives since the target was published. In 1 Victoria street this included a number of energy efficiency projects to improve lighting and environmental controls as well as occupant awareness. The Department has also undertaken a study into the use of localised microgeneration of energy on the estate. Energy efficiency is taken into account in any estate project undertaken and has included the introduction of energy minimising technology within the recent IT systems refresh.

The Department has recently undertaken energy audits across its estate. Projects identified to reduce carbon emission include using lighting controls more effectively and piloting the use of LED technology.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222058]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has not occupied any new space nor undertaken any major refurbishments during the last 24 months.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 6 October 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

In the last 24 months Companies House has decorated and replaced the carpet in the London office, a floor area of 275 square metres. Out of a total area of 28,800 square metres in the Cardiff office, an area of 1051 square metres has been refurbished.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 6 October 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/3623) asking what the location is of each office occupied by (a) his Department and (b) each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each.

For the Insolvency Service the information is:

Newly occupied and fitted out demises:

Birmingham (Cannon House) – 3990 m^2

Croydon (Sunley House) – 1498 m^2

Gloucester (Southgate House) – 978 m^2

Reading (Apex Plaza) – 792 m^2.

Southampton (Town Quay) – 700 m^2.

None of our demises were refurbished in the period.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the five most serious disciplinary breaches have been in his Department in the last 12 months; and what action was taken to correct the breach in each case. [222559]

Mr. Thomas: There have been no serious disciplinary breaches in BERR during the last 12 months. BERR has a disciplinary procedure which is available for all staff to view on the HR intranet. Line managers also have access to dedicated advice through nominated HR consultants.

Departmental Homeworking

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1320W, on departmental home working, if he will make it his policy to collate and maintain central records of homeworking by his Department's staff. [222470]

Mr. Thomas: Records of homeworking by the Department's staff are not collated centrally. There is no intention to introduce this policy.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what types of data have been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222056]

Mr. Thomas: Core information produced by the Department can be re-used free of charge under the terms of the PSI Click-Use Licence which is administered by the Office of Public Sector Information in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations. The Department has not sold any data during this period.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House agencies and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, 6 October 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has not sold any data under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last twelve months.

Letter from Stephen Speed, 6 October 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/3621) asking if he will list each type of data that has been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months.

The Insolvency Service does not sell any data under the above regulations.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222054]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has no permanent residential accommodation.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212490]

Mr. Thomas: The available information for average hourly rates of pay for permanent staff in BERR in 2008 is shown in the following table.

The pay data for temporary staff are not available as their pay is determined by the agencies that employ them.

Ranges[1]	*London Hourly Rates (£)*[2]	*National Hourly Rates (£)*
2	8	6
3	9	8
4	10	8
5	11	9
6	12	10
7	14	12
8	14	14
9	17	19
10	22	22
11	27	26
Fast Stream	14	15
SCS PB1	36	n/a
SCS PB2	46	n/a

n/a = Not available

[1] The BERR pay system below SCS has 10 pay ranges.

[2] The hourly rate calculations were based on average annual salary and gross hours of 41 hours per week for those working in London and 42 hours for those working outside London.

Notes:

1. There are very few SCS posts in BERR located outside London and it is therefore not possible to provide such average figures for outside London.
2. Annual Salaries for staff in SCSPB3 and the Permanent Secretary are published in the Departmental Annual Report.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222051]

Mr. Thomas: I have arranged for this information to be placed in the Libraries of the House. In line with the applicable legislative provisions relating to personal data, the names and addresses of individuals have not been included in this list.

Departmental Public Participation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what public consultation exercises were undertaken by his Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost of each was. [222768]

Mr. Thomas: Data on the number of written consultations undertaken by the Department are published in the annual report and accounts available on the Department's website. The number of written consultations undertaken in each of the last three years was:

	Number
2005-06	71
2006-07	47
2007-08	45

All the Department's consultations are listed in the consultations index of its website at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/index.html.

We estimate that the total production costs of the written consultations carried out by the Department in the last three calendar years were as follows:

	£
2005	67,000
2006	71,000
2007	51,000

Data for earlier years and for individual consultations could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222052]

Mr. Thomas: In the last three full financial years the Department spent the following on external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework:

	Amount spent (£)
2007-08[1]	
Geronimo Communications	172,630.27
GCI	30,030
Total	202,660.27
2006-07[2]	
Fishburn Hedges	9,071
GCI	179,113
Geronimo Communications	163,642
Total	351,826
2005-06	
GCI	105,786
Geronimo Communications	76,240
Harrison Cowley	239,050
Wright Communication	32,694
Total	453,770

[1] April to June 2007 as DTI and BERR from June 2007.
[2] Spend by the former DTI.
Note:
These costs are inclusive of COFs fees.

BERR's agencies will reply separately.

External public relations and marketing companies are only used where the internal specialism is not available. They are used for raising public awareness on specific issues, such as for the Department's 'Employing People' campaign.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 6 October 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House did not spend any money on any of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in the last 36 months.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 6 October 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/3617) asking how much (a) his Department and (b) its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's (COI) Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months.

The Insolvency Service spent approximately £14,500 in 2007-08 on external public relations to provide cover for the press officer during a period of absence. No other monies were spent on public relations and marketing companies included in COI's public relations framework in either 2005-06 or 2006-07.

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [222057]

Mr. Thomas: The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 allows BERR and its agencies to conduct directed surveillance in accordance with Section 28 of the Act, grant authorisations for the conduct and use of a covert intelligence source in accordance with Section 29 of the Act and to obtain certain types of communication data in accordance with Section 22 of the Act. In each case the use of powers within RIPA has to be appropriately authorised.

Figures on public authority use of covert techniques controlled by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') are published annually by the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner who each have particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the House Library on 22 July. The figures provided in the reports are not broken down by individual public authority use of specific covert technique as, depending on the particular technique and authority using it, this could either reveal sensitivities or be misleading. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant Commissioner.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221833]

Mr. Thomas: EDF provides the energy for the BERR estate through a call off contract via an Office of Government Commerce framework.

Spend over the past five financial years is as follows:

	£
2003-04	530,550
2004-05	520,011
2005-06	856,367
2006-07	1,240,938
2007-08	1,495,498

I am unable to provide the figures for the previous five years as disproportionate costs would be incurred.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 6 October 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has two contracts with EDF for the supply of electricity to the Cardiff and Nantgarw offices.

Our records are only available from 2004 and the amounts paid, inclusive of VAT, are as follows:

		£
2004-05	—	0
2005-06	—	0
2006-07	—	0

		£
2007-08	Total	211,624
	Cardiff	157,832
	Nantgarw	53,792
2008 to date	Total	100,685
	Cardiff	75,910
	Nantgarw	24,775

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 6 October 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/3630) asking what contracts (a) his Department and (b) its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) his agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment.

The Insolvency Service started making payments to EDF, for electricity payments only from 2005. The table below shows the breakdown of the payments.

	£
2005	381,600
2006	381,600
2007	381,600
2008 to July	222,600

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or the administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222277]

Mr. Thomas: This Government are firmly committed to the importance of the EU in delivering on 21st century challenges. The EU is of central importance to the work of HM Government across all Departments. It is relevant to a wide range of policy areas, and to the work of many Government officials.

Within BERR, officials working specifically on EU business total around 180. In addition, there are a number of seconded national experts working on priority policy areas in the European Institutions in Brussels and on occasion other EU member states, usually around a dozen individuals. A fuller breakdown of the figures as requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Family Businesses

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to reduce the regulatory burdens on family businesses. [216501]

Mr. McFadden: The Government's plan to reduce regulatory burdens apply to all businesses including family businesses. Administrative burdens arising as a result of regulation can disproportionately impact on smaller firms.

Family run businesses tend to be small (10-49 employees) micro (1-9 employees) or have no employees. "The larger a business is the less likely it is to be family owned"[1]

On 12 March 2008, the Government published a new Enterprise Strategy. In the 2008 Enterprise Strategy, the Government committed to a new approach to the way that new and existing regulation applies to firms that employ fewer than 20 people; this includes considering whether small firms can be exempt from requirements without affecting essential protections—or if there is scope for simplified inspection, enforcement and guidance. A risk based approach to regulation will help minimise costs for small businesses.

Within the Enterprise Strategy, Government also announced that it would consult on the introduction of a system of regulatory budgets. At present there are limited controls on new regulatory proposals and there is no overall method for the Government to directly manage regulatory costs. A regulatory budget would provide such a mechanism. The Government is currently carrying out its consultation on this proposal.

In June 2008 The Small Firms Impact Test (SFIT) became a mandatory part of the Impact Assessment (IA) process when a Government proposal imposes or reduces costs on business. The Government's manifesto commitment in 2001 ensured the 'Think Small First' principle was followed as part of UK policy development. The SFIT is intended to establish impact on small businesses and how it is possible to minimise the impact of the requirements on small firms through flexibilities such as exemptions, simplified inspection, less frequent reporting for businesses with fewer than 20 employees.

More generally, Government undertook an exercise, supported by industry, to measure the administrative burdens that impact businesses of all sizes as a result of complying with regulations. Upon the completion of this exercise, 25 per cent. net targets by 2010 were set to reduce this burden.

In December 2007, 19 Simplification Plans were published, showing more than 700 measures to reduce the burdens of complying with regulations. Over 280 of these measures have already been delivered saving businesses £800 million per year.

Examples include:

Simpler law for smaller businesses (BERR): Smaller businesses stand to benefit from substantial rewrite of Company Law. Coupled with better guidance, new provisions are expected to lower third party costs and make compliance easier. Conservative estimate of £2 million annual savings delivered.

Changes to Small Business Rate Relief (Communities): Small firms eligible for Small Business Rate Relief no longer have to register for relief annually. £3 million annual savings delivered, and expected to rise to £11 million by 2010.

Small Firms audit requirements (Financial Services Authority): Removed the need for 3,400 small firms to have a statutory audit, saving £12.9 million per year

Copies of these plans are available online at:

http://www.berr.gov./uk/bre/policy/simplifying-existing-regulation/simplification-plans/2007/page44068.html

2007 Simplification Plans

The following 19 departments, regulators and agencies have produced Simplification Plans with a 25 per cent. or above reduction target.

Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Cabinet Office
Charity Commission
Department for Children, Schools and Families (PDF)
Department for Communities and Local Government
Department for Culture Media and Sport
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department of Health
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (PDF)
Department for Transport (PDF)
Department for Work and Pensions
Food Standards Agency (PDF)
Forestry Commission (PDF)
Government Equality Office (Word Document.)
Health and Safety Executive
HM Treasury (PDF)
Home Office
Ministry of Justice
Office for National Statistics

In addition, two plans have been published without a target.

Financial Services Authority (PDF)
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (PDF)

[1] Small Businesses in Rural Areas: An analysis of the Annual Small Business Survey 2004. Business Service Analytical Unit 2006 http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file38269.pdf

Herbal Medicine: EC Law

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment the Better Regulation Executive has made of the impact of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive on *(a)* manufacturers, *(b)* retailers and *(c)* consumers of specialist herbal remedies; what estimate he has made of the effect of the Directive on the number of herbal remedies on the market; and if he will make a statement. [221881]

Mr. McFadden: It is the responsibility of the relevant Government Department or agency to assess the impact of new policies, through the publication of an impact assessment.

In October 2005, a detailed impact assessment (IA) was conducted by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to determine the impact of the directive on various stakeholders and sectors, including manufacturers, retailers and consumers. This is available on

www.mhra.gov.uk.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Better Regulation Executive was consulted by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency about the consistency with the principles of good regulation of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; and what assessment he has made of whether those principles are met by the Directive. [221883]

Mr. McFadden: In introducing the new legislation, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency consulted publicly and across government, including with the Better Regulation Executive (then in Cabinet Office) and the Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF). At the time, officials from both organisations would have considered whether proposals were in line with better regulation principles.

Industrial Disputes

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many working days were lost as a result of strikes in *(a)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, *(b)* the South West region and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. [222403]

Mr. McFadden: Data on days lost to industrial action are collected by the Office for National Statistics only at Government office region level. Therefore information on days lost relating to parliamentary constituencies is outside of the scope of data collected.

The available data for days lost to industrial action in the Government office region of South West England and for England as a whole for each year since 1979 are shown in the following table.

	South West	*England*	*UK total*	*UK strikes which could not be disaggregated to GOR level*[1]
1979	2,423,000	23,803,000	29,474,000	—
1980	117,000	7,548,000	11,964,000	—
1981	171,000	3,305,000	4,266,000	—
1982	170,000	4,300,000	5,313,000	—
1983	88,000	3,013,000	3,754,000	—
1984	87,000	21,224,000	27,135,000	—
1985	87,000	4,741,000	6,402,000	—
1986	62,000	1,501,000	1,920,000	—
1987	204,000	2,802,000	3,546,000	—
1988	121,000	3,328,000	3,702,000	—
1989	181,000	3,244,000	4,128,000	—
1990	22,000	1,676,000	1,903,000	3,000
1991	11,000	604,000	761,000	—
1992	3,000	406,000	528,000	49,000
1993	5,000	193,000	649,000	309,000
1994	20,000	190,000	278,000	54,000
1995	10,000	301,000	415,000	23,000

	South West	England	UK total	UK strikes which could not be disaggregated to GOR level[1]
1996	95,000	1,079,000	1,303,000	25,000
1997	900	148,100	235,000	17,800
1998	1,700	126,700	282,400	101,100
1999	3,400	119,400	241,800	67,400
2000	2,100	173,300	498,800	3,300
2001	17,100	381,900	525,100	48,000
2002	67,700	1,098,400	1,323,300	200
2003	14,600	324,100	499,100	9,100
2004	28,700	443,100	904,900	1,300
2005	2,800	123,400	157,400	4,500
2006	18,000	397,600	754,500	156,000
2007	59,400	768,400	1,041,100	96,900

[1] The figures are not included in either of the first two columns.

Notes:

1. Between 1979 and 1996 figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. From 1997 onwards, figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Innovation: Medical Equipment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the Department of Health on the potential implications for the *(a)* urology market, *(b)* stoma market and *(c)* single-line items market of the proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances, and related services, in Primary Care: A consultation, June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [222387]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has had no recent discussions with the Department of Health about its consultation "Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care. June 2008".

However, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Bristol, West (Stephen Williams) by my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Public Health on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1311W and 1148W.

The Department of Health consultation regarding arrangements under Part IX of the Drug tariff closed on 9 September 2008. Responses are being analysed and no decisions have yet been made.

Insurance

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the adequacy of market provision of insurance services for particular age groups. [212630]

Barbara Follett: The Government have announced their intention to prohibit age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services as part of the Equality Bill.

In advance of further public consultation on how the new law should be framed, an expert working group has been set up to help establish the extent of nature of age- based policies and practices in the provision of financial services, and the possible impact of legislation in this area.

Investment: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage business investment in the West Midlands. [224174]

Mr. McFadden: The regional development agency for the west midlands, Advantage West Midlands (AWM) has primary responsibility for measures to encourage business investment in the region. Recent initiatives, highlighted in the recent report 'The West Midlands Economy—A joint response to changing economic circumstances' include:

The extension of the Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE) grant to provide greater support for capital projects undertaken by small and medium sized enterprises outside the main assisted areas. The scheme paid approximately £10 million to nearly 150 businesses in the region in the year to 31 March2008;

Providing an additional £1 million to the region's Community Development Finance Institutions to enable them to increase their lending to businesses;

Further investment in venture capital funds as the current funds mature;

At the national level, the Government have extended the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme to businesses over five years old and increased the funding allocated to the scheme by £60 million. This will benefit firms across the country, including the west midlands.

These initiatives are in addition to other programmes already in place, including:

Grant for Research and Development, which pays out around £2 million a year in the west midlands to help SMEs finance new products and services;

AWM's Index Voucher scheme which encourages smaller businesses to work to build links with universities and other research institutions;

Business Link West Midlands and the Manufacturing Advisory Service provide impartial and expert information, support and advice to help businesses develop and become more successful.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage international corporations to base businesses in the West Midlands. [224175]

Mr. McFadden: The west midlands has been successful in attracting inward investment including the acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover by the Tata Group. In 2007-08 114 investment projects created 4,640 jobs and safeguarded 25,840 more.

Advantage West Midlands has an ongoing programme of inward investment activity designed to attract prospective inward investors into the region. This activity is aimed at attracting knowledge driven investment into the west midlands region from the business and professional services, ICT, automotive engineering, medical technologies, building technologies and environmental technologies sectors.

Proactive sales activities are taking place in the USA, France, Germany, Scandinavia, Benelux, Japan, Australia and India. Recent and forthcoming steps to attract inward investors include the continued roll-out of the Bridge to Growth initiative across Scandinavia, France, Germany, the Benelux countries and Ireland. This is an innovative project aimed at high tech SME's which has resulted in nearly 20 companies setting up operations in the region.

The Regional Minister, Liam Byrne, has visited India and China to discuss business opportunities with local companies. An India Business Action Plan for the region was launched in July and a plan to develop business and academic ties with China is being prepared.

Other initiatives include ICT seminars in conjunction with Warwick university which will take place in three cities in India in October 2008. A more integrated programme of activity with UKTI is being developed and rolled out in three vanguard markets—India, Canada and France. The global roll-out to all markets will take place in April 2009.

Manufacturing Industries: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to support manufacturing companies in London. [222770]

Mr. McFadden: BERR recognises the contribution the manufacturing sector makes to both the regional and national economies, and is currently reviewing the Government's manufacturing strategy in order to ensure that it continues to address the changing needs of the sector.

London manufacturers are able to access mainstream BERR business support products, which encourage increased competitiveness, productivity, investment and innovation. Support for manufacturing is available from a variety of sources including:

London Manufacturing Advisory Service

Business Link London

Minimum Wage: Publicity

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1730W, on minimum wage: publicity, what the criteria were for the choices of location of the visit of the minimum wage battle bus. [222212]

Mr. McFadden: The locations were chosen to enable us to reach as many of our target audience of low paid workers and their employers as possible during the nine week tour. The national minimum wage bus was just one element of the 2007-08 national minimum wage awareness campaign.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects in relation to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [221869]

Mr. Thomas: A full breakdown is given in the following table.

Number of full time equivalent staff within BERR, UKTI and RDAs working on the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Name of organisation	*Total number of current staff*	*(i) of which working on project management*	*(ii)of which working on legacy planning*	*(iii) of which working on project oversight*	*(iv) of which working on financial oversight*	*Planned future staffing levels*
BERR	3.25	0	3.25	0	0	No planned changes
UKTI	2.5	0	2.5	0	0	No planned changes
AWM	1	0.75	0.10	0.05	0.10	No planned changes
EEDA	3.25	1	1.8	0.45	0	No planned changes
EMDA	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	No planned changes
LDA	88	0	88	0	0	No planned changes
NWDA	1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	No planned changes
ONE	2.3	0.9	0.9	0.25	0.25	No planned changes
SEEDA	4.2	2.3	1.5	0.4	0	+1

Number of full time equivalent staff within BERR, UKTI and RDAs working on the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Name of organisation	*Total number of current staff*	*(i) of which working on project management*	*(ii)of which working on legacy planning*	*(iii) of which working on project oversight*	*(iv) of which working on financial oversight*	*Planned future staffing levels*
SWERDA	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	No planned changes
YF	0.35	0.1	0.15	0.05	0.05	No planned changes
Total	109.85	6.35	99.5	2.4	1.6	+1

Ordnance Survey

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of Ordnance Survey's licensing terms on trends in business take-up of its services; and if he will make a statement. [222736]

Mr. McFadden: As part of the Trading Funds Assessment announced in Budget 2008, Shareholder Executive and HMT are currently considering the impact, both on the Ordnance Survey's business model and the wider UK economy, of the Ordnance Survey's current licensing and pricing regime for its data and the costs and benefits of any possible options for change. The issues are being considered for five other data-rich Trading Funds (Met Office, UKHO, DVLA, Companies House and Land Registry) as well as Ordnance Survey.

This work has not yet concluded but will provide recommendations to Ministers shortly.

Political Levy

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was in each political fund of each trades union in the most recent period for which figures are available, according to records held by the certification officer. [222213]

Mr. McFadden: The certification officer publishes information about the political funds of trade unions in his annual report. According to his latest report (2007-08), the size of each fund at year end was as follows :

Union	*Funds at end of year (£)*
Amicus	1,957,000
Aspect	8,733
Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen	230,991
Association of Revenue and Customs	114,980
Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union	9,383
Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union	19,718
Communication Workers Union	229,106
Community	221,000
Connect: The Union for Professionals in Communications	57,279
Educational Institute for Scotland	1,281,446
Fire Brigades Union	936,761
GMB	49,000
Musicians Union	37,031
National Association of Colliery Overmen Deputies and Shotfirers	20,639
National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers	3,001
National Union of Mineworkers	93,050
National Union of Mineworkers North Western Cheshire and Cumbria Miners Association	418
National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers	143,000
POA	19,113
Prospect	387,121
Transport and General Workers Union	1,783,000
Transport Salaried Staffs Association	113,419
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians	105,000
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	6,902
Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers	1,006,721
UNSION: The Public Services Union	3,057,000
University and College Union	10,349
Unity	424,734
Total	12,325,895

Post Offices: Closures

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office branches have experienced temporary closures of more than one month in the last five years for which information is available; and what assessment he has made of the merits of using mobile post offices during such periods of temporary closure. [221768]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Devon

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations from hon. Members on the Devon post office closures programme have been received by the Post Office National Consultation Team. [224058]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postal Services: Fees and Charges

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the appropriateness and transparency of handling fees charged to UK customers by international parcel delivery services. [223464]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Postal operators are legally required to work with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to facilitate the collection of customs duty and taxes on goods entering the UK from outside the EU. The handling fee goes towards covering the costs incurred in storing items and collecting the duty fee on behalf of HMRC before it can be released to the customer.

In such a highly competitive market, it is for the parcels companies to review their own pricing structures in response to competitive pressures and market demands. Where there is evidence that an operator is behaving in an anti-competitive manner, the matter should be drawn to the attention of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

Public Houses: EU Legislation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will review *(a)* the effects of tied lease agreements for pubs on (i) competition and (ii) bar prices and *(b)* the extent to which tied lease agreements are consistent with EU regulations; and if he will make a statement. [224035]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The Department has no plans to commission research of this type. The relationship between pub operating companies and their tied tenants has been extensively examined in recent years by both European and UK competition authorities. The conclusion has been that tied lease and tenancy agreements generally do not raise competition concerns.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has undertaken into the functions of regional development agencies in the last four years. [223335]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Since 2004, the Department has conducted the following research into the functions of the regional development agencies (RDAs):

In 2006-07, the National Audit Office carried out Independent Performance Assessments (IPAs) of all the RDAs (except for London which had been covered in a previous Audit Commission Review). This is available on the NAO website: http://www.nao.org.uk/guidance/rdas.htm.

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) is currently undertaking a thorough review for the RDAs of their impact since 2002. The report will be publicly available once concluded in autumn 2008.

Regional Development Agencies: Managers

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many staff there are in managerial posts in each regional development agency (RDA); what pay scales apply to such posts; how many such staff are employed on each scale; and what the average salary of managerial staff employed by RDAs is; [220092]

(2) what change there has been in the number of *(a)* administrative and *(b)* managerial posts in each regional development agency in 2007-08; and what such changes he expects to occur in 2008-09. [220096]

Mr. McFadden: The RDAs do not draw a common administrative/managerial distinction between staff. However, for the sake of consistency, administrative staffs have been classified as those occupying posts primarily concerned with supportive responsibilities, e.g. PAs, assistants to PAs, team administrators, office administrators. In the same way, managers are considered to be those who have a discrete area of managerial ' responsibility for a team or programme of work. RDAs vary in overall staffing numbers as some have much bigger budgets/geographical coverage than others. The following tables show this information.

RDAs	*Posts*	*Actual 2007-08*	*Projected 2008-09*[1]
AWM	Administrative	55	55
	Managerial	[2]60	63
EEDA	Administrative	49	48
	Managerial	40	38
EMDA	Administrative	28	28
	Managerial	35	35
LDA	Administrative	150	[3]—
	Managerial	105	[3]—
NWDA	Administrative	63	50
	Managerial	56	46
ONE	Administrative	55	46
	Managerial	62	58
SEEDA	Administrative	35	35
	Managerial	36	[4]40
SWRDA	Administrative,	92	78
	Managerial	59	55
YF	Administrative	53	54
	Managerial	51	[6]58

[1] Projected figures as at 1 September 2008.
[2] This excludes three vacant managerial posts, which have subsequently been filled.
[3] The LDA is currently in the process of restructuring. This restructure is subject to a formal consultation, which is already under way. However, the phasing of this restructure has yet to be consulted upon with staff and unions. Therefore the LDA is unable to provide estimated figures for 2008-09.
[4] This increase on 2007-08 is due to recruiting additional senior staff managing strategic programmes and relations with partners.
[5] SWRDA has additional programmes over other RDAs due to Cornwall's Objective One status.
[6] YF has appointed three managerial posts in relation to the delivery of the new ERDF programme. Due to internal restructuring, two existing finance posts have been re-graded to include additional responsibilities. There is a new post to manage the contract for Business Link services. There is a temporary post for a payroll specialist.

The following table reflects actual staffing numbers as they stand as of 2 September 2008.

RDA	Pay scales	Salary range (£)	Number of staff
AWM	Chief Executive	Up to 134,973	1
	Corporate Director 2	89,760 to 102,000	4
	Functional Director (Development)	65,505 to 81,881	1
	Functional Director	59,550 to 74,457	11
	Pay Zone A (Head of Team)	47,186 to 58,983	14
	Pay Zone B (Team Leader)	40,106 to 50,133	32
AWM average salary of managerial posts is £61,327			
EEDA	Chief Executive	Up to 134,973	1
	Directors	73,280 to 104,051	5
	Senior Manager 3	71,214	2
	Senior Manager 2	61,066	4
	Senior Manager 1	54,960	13
	Professional Manager 4	46,410 to 51,295	15
EEDA average salary of managerial posts is £61,945			
EMDA	Chief Executive	Up to 134,973	1
	Executive Directors	76,500 to 89,250	4
	Operational Directors	56,638 to 67,986	8
	Head of Team	36,149 to 54,425	22
EMDA average salary of managerial posts is £58,700.			
LDA	J	150,380 to 162,740	2
	I	120,674 to 148,320	2
	H	102,666 to 120,674	2
	G	91,356 to 112,218	24
	F	65,773 to 80,595	75
LDA average salary of managerial posts is £80,671.			
NWDA	Chief Executive	Up to 134,973	1
	Executive Director	61,055 to 112,717	19
	A	45,333 to 67,998	36
NWDA average salary of managerial posts is £65,064.			
ONE	Chief Executive	Up to 134,973	1
	Directors 1	96,928 to 114,033	2
	Directors 2	81,717 to 96,137	3
	14	67,862 to 79,838	0
	13	74,950 to 76,480	15
	12	54,100 to 63,647	1
	11	45,111 to 53,072	40
ONE average salary of managerial posts is £60,722.			
SEEDA	Chief Executive	138,601	1
	Executive Director Upper Band	98,500 to 125,000	1
	Executive Director Lower Band	85,000 to 112,289	5
	Senior Management and Professional A	64,073 to 81,870	19
	Senior Management and Professional B	55,132 to 70,446	14
SEEDA average salary of managerial posts is £75,944.			
SWRDA	Chief Executive	Up to 134,973	1
	Band 0	69,710 to 103,372	4

RDA	Pay scales	Salary range (£)	Number of staff
	Band 1	65,160 to 77,813	16
	Band 2	47,673 to 60,331	38
SWRDA average salary of managerial posts is £61,289.			
YF	Chief Executive	Up to 134,973	1
	Director	94,881	5
	Grade R	50,694 to 75,507	20
	Grade Q	40,678 to 51,707	10
	Grade O/P	33,240 to 47,057	11
YF average salary of managerial posts is £68,890.			

[1] The salary for the South East Chief Executive reflects an agreed weighting for proximity to London.

Regional Development Agencies: Offices

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what expenditure was incurred by regional development agencies in maintaining offices overseas in 2007-08; and what expenditure on such offices has been budgeted for in 2008-09. [222829]

Mr. McFadden: The English Regional Development Agencies maintain representation overseas for the purpose of attracting inward investment, an important element of the Regional Economic Strategy for each region. The following table shows Regional Development Agencies' expenditure on overseas offices.

		£000
RDA	Actual 2007-08	Budgeted for 2008-09
AWM	748	766
EEDA	[1]0	0
EMDA	744	755
LDA	855	[2]750
NWDA	1,027	1,040
ONE	793	727
SEEDA	662	645
SWERDA	483	537
YF	[3]444	980

[1] EEDA no longer maintains overseas offices.
[2] Following the London elections, the new Mayoral administration have committed to a review of the GLA Group's overseas offices. This review is currently ongoing and it is therefore important to note that these are only projected costs and could be subject to significant change.
[3] In October 2007 Yorkshire Forward implemented a new strategy regarding overseas investment and part of this included making provision to attract inward investors from Western Europe. Also, a Yorkshire Forward representative in Mumbai was appointed in December 2007.

Regional Development Agencies: Public Appointments

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 15WS, on regional development agencies: re-appointments, what the declared political activity of each of the 12 re-appointed board members is. [223012]

Mr. McFadden: The declared political activity of each of the 12 re-appointed board members is detailed as follows.

	Re-appointed board members
Declared	Cllr Ken Taylor AWM Parvin Ali Stan Crawford EMDA Cllr John Shipley ONE North East Cllr Kath Pinnock YE
Obtained office as a local councillor:	Cllr K Taylor S Crawford Cllr J Shipley Cllr K Pinnock
Stood as a candidate for local councillor:	P Ali
Spoken on behalf of a party or candidate:	Cllr K Taylor P Ali Cllr K Pinnock
Acted as a political agent:	Cllr K Taylor P Ali
Held office such as chair, treasurer or secretary of a local branch of a party:	Cllr K Taylor P Ali
Canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at elections:	Cllr K Taylor P Ali S Crawford Cllr J Shipley Cllr K Pinnock
Undertaken any other political activity which you consider relevant:	Cllr K Taylor P Ali Cllr K Pinnock

	Re-appointed board members
Made a recordable donation to a political party:	Cllr K Taylor
	Cllr J Shipley
Name of Party for which activity undertaken:	Conservatives—Cllr K Taylor
	Labour—P Ali
	Labour—S Crawford
	Liberal Democrats—Cllr J Shipley
	Liberal Democrats—Cllr K Pinnock
	Co-operative—P Ali

None declared

Advantage West Midlands: David Brown, John Crabtree

ONE NorthEast: Ian Brown, Kate Welch

NorthWest Regional Development Agency: Vanda Murray

South West of England Regional Development Agency: Kelvyn Derrick

Yorkshire Forward: Barry Dodd

Regional Development Agencies: Small Businesses

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent research has been carried out by his Department into the procedures for small and medium enterprises to apply for regional development agency support. [223336]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 September 2008]*: The Department has not recently carried out specific and detailed research into the procedures for small and medium enterprises to apply for regional development agencies' support.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 329W, on regional planning and development: electronic government, how much funding each regional development agency has provided to the regional equality and diversity partnership in each region. [222986]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows RDAs' funding to regional equality and diversity partnerships in 2008-09.

RDA	*Funding in 2008-09 (£000)*
AWM	[1]0
ONE	[2]80
YF	[3]0

[1] No plans to provide core funding for the respective regional equality and diversity partnerships in their regions in 2008-09.

[2] ONE to provide £80,000 to the North East Equality and Diversity Partnership.

[3] No plans to provide core funding for the respective regional equality and diversity partnerships in their regions in 2008-09.

No such single, legally constituted equality and diversity partnership exists within the East of England, East Midlands, London, the North West, South East or the South West.

Retail Trade: Competition

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the Government's response to the Competition Commission's inquiry into grocery retailing of 29 July 2008, what definition of consumer interest his Department will use when determining whether to establish an independent Ombudsman to oversee the Groceries Supply Code of Practice. [224279]

Mr. Thomas: The Competition Commission (CC) is seeking, under Section 159 of the Enterprise Act 2002, undertakings from the grocery retailers covered by the new groceries supply code of practice (GSCOP) to establish an ombudsman to monitor and enforce compliance with the GSCOP. If the CC is unsuccessful in establishing the Ombudsman within a reasonable period of time, the CC will formally ask BERR to take the necessary steps to set up an ombudsman. BERR would then carry out a full consultation before taking a decision on the way forward. At this stage BERR would not want to pre judge the range or type of issue that might be raised by stakeholders.

Small Businesses: Ethnic Groups

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of small businesses owned by black and ethnic minority people. [219045]

Mr. McFadden: The Department estimates there are around 280,000 small (0-49 employees) Minority Ethnic Group led businesses in the UK.

Minority Ethnic Group led businesses are where 50 per cent. or more of the partners or directors are from ethnic minority groups.

It is estimated that these businesses represent 6 per cent. of all UK small businesses.

It is not possible to report on the proportion of businesses run by black people or other minority ethnic groups separately to the overall estimate.

South East

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on services in *(a)* Dartford Borough, *(b)* Kent Thameside, *(c)* the Thames Gateway, *(d)* Kent County Council area and *(e)* the South East region in each of the last five years, broken down by type of service. [222448]

Mr. McFadden: Information on the Department's spending by Region and service is published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 Annex 8 which is lodged in the House. Expenditure is broken down by country and region for years 2002-03 to 2007-08 (Table 7), by Head of Population for years 2002-03 to 2007-08 (Table 8), and by identifiable expenditure on services by function, country and region for 2006-07.

Payments made to Kent County Council during the last five years were as follows:

Financial year 2004-05, £52,940.76 re-imbursement of salary costs, £2,519.38 conference room rental.

Financial year 2007-08, £1,100,190.98 waste electrical and electronic equipment grant.

No payments are recorded on the Department's system to either Dartford BC, Kent Thameside, or the Thames Gateway.

Any further breakdown would be at disproportionate cost.

BERR's spending in the South East includes funding to South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

The following table shows SEEDA's expenditure for Kent as a whole and also, separately, cross-regional funding. This is all spending and not just on 'services'. It is not possible to show how much of this expenditure came from the BERR grant-in-aid.

To break down expenditure by each area requested would involve disproportionate effort.

Please note that EEDA and LDA also provide funding to the Thames Gateway.

£

	Kent[1]	*Cross-regional expenditure*[1, 2]	*South East region (This figure is SEEDA's total expenditure*[3]	*BERR grant-in-aid to SEEDA*
2007-08	37,261,515	10,584,077	193,933,000[4]	165,000,000
2006-07	47,965,454	7,870,431	195,409,000	159,000,000
2005-06	59,801,985	11,519,207	181,500,000	158,200,000
2004-05	73,301,894	10,084,140	164,070,000	104,500,000
2003-04	25,278,974	1,299,593	125,011,000	120,944,000

[1] These figures for forecast expenditure have been taken from SEEDA's PMS system and are not audited and should be viewed as indicative only.
[2] Cross Regional expenditure is expenditure by SEEDA that covers more than one county. This expenditure could include expenditure in Kent.
[3] The figure provided is SEEDA's annual total expenditure as laid down in SEEDA's Annual Report and Accounts.
[4] Please note that the figure for 2007-08 has been signed off by SEEDA's Finance department but they are awaiting final approval of the Annual Report and Accounts by the National Audit Office.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222182]

Mr. Thomas: BERR is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work. A stress management framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards, is available to all employees and gives easy to use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223026]

Mr. Thomas: The Department spend £278,410 on taxis in the financial year 2007-08. This figure includes taxi spend in both the UK and overseas. I have asked the chief executives of the Department's agencies to reply to you directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 6 October 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The amount spent on Companies House's taxi account in the financial year 2007/8 was £22,332.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 6 October 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2007/3644) asking how much (a) his Department and (b) its agencies spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available.

The Insolvency Service's policy is that public transport must be used in preference to taxis on all possible occasions.

The Service is unable to extract details of annual taxi expenses for the year 2007-2008, but a sample data has been extracted which shows costs of £1,510 for a month. We would not expect annual taxi fares to be more than £20,000.

TICC: Redundancy

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many employees were made redundant when TICC Ltd went into liquidation; how many received compensation from public funds; how such compensation payments were determined; and under what statutory authority such payments were made. [222802]

Mr. McFadden: TICC Ltd was placed into creditors voluntary liquidation on 8 November 2002. The Insolvency Service's Redundancy Payments Service received claims from 21 dismissed employees in respect of statutory redundancy payments, arrears of wages, holiday pay, notice pay, and a basic award for unfair dismissal. The sum of £53,850.24 was paid from the National Insurance Fund with the amounts being determined in accordance with the statutory provisions contained in Parts XI and XII of the Employment Rights Act 1996.

Trading Funds

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which representatives of the private sector the shareholder executive team *(a)* has met and *(b)* plans to meet as part of the trading fund assessment. [223240]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* To date, as part of the trading funds assessment, the Shareholder Executive team has heard the views of around 20-25 stakeholders from the private sector, as well as others from the public and third sectors. The private sector stakeholders have included customers, suppliers and competitors of the trading funds, small UK-based companies, large multinationals and representatives of trade associations and interest groups. It would not be appropriate to name the organisations individually because their contributions to and comments on the assessment have been to

inform advice to Ministers and were on a non-attributable basis. The team will continue to seek the views of a large number of stakeholders as the assessment progresses. Any change in Government policy that arises as a result of the assessment will be subject to the appropriate public consultation.

UK Trade and Investment: Manpower

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who is on the UK Trade and Investment Defence Advisory Group. [215440]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* UK Trade and Investment has set up a Defence Advisory Group (DAG) to advise on strategy and objectives for the defence sector. The DAG comprises 15 members, who are expected to serve for two years and who have been selected on the basis of the expertise that they personally bring to speak with authority and experience of defence exports. At the first meeting Sir Kevin Tebbit, Chairman of Finmeccanica UK, acted as Chairman of the Group. Information on individual members of the Group is considered to be personal information and is withheld for that reason.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ABL Consulting

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has a contract with ABL Consulting. [222076]

Mr. Khan: The Department has let no contracts with ABL Consulting.

Arc Manche Assembly

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings of the Arc Manche Assembly representatives of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government Offices attended in the last 12 months; and on what dates. [224482]

Mr. Khan: No representatives of my Department or the Government Offices have attended meetings of the Arc Manche Assembly in the last 12 months.

Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of greenfield development on carbon dioxide emissions. [222869]

Mr. Iain Wright: Assessments of the likely effects of new development, including likely impacts on carbon emissions, are made through the sustainability appraisals supporting the preparation of regional and local planning strategies. Actual carbon emissions arising from greenfield development will vary according to the type, size and design of the development concerned and its location. Our planning policies on climate change, including the new planning policy statement on climate change, expect new development to be planned to limit carbon dioxide emissions and sustainability appraisal to be used to shape planning strategies that help achieve this.

Community Development: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what further assessment her Department plans to make of the performance of Pathfinder in the Newcastle area in meeting the needs of communities by developing retail premises within communities which previously fell within the most deprived indices. [222633]

Mr. Iain Wright: Housing market renewal pathfinders have an important role to play in helping shape the redevelopment of the neighbourhoods where they operate, as well as focusing simply on improving the housing stock. This will include consideration with local partners of a wide range of facilities, including retail. The Department will continue to take a close interest in the performance of each pathfinder, including against business plans prepared last November and targets agreed in this year's Funding Agreements. We are also discussing with pathfinders a new set of performance monitoring indicators, as recommended recently by the Public Accounts Committee, in order to measure the change in quality of an area as well as the amount of refurbishment, demolition and new build.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the rules for the *(a)* liability and *(b)* the tariff rate for the Community Infrastructure Levy will be centrally or locally determined. [222576]

Mr. Iain Wright: The document "The Community Infrastructure Levy" published on 5 August by the Department sets out the Government's detailed proposals for how CIL liability will be established. Rates of CIL will be determined locally, according to a process which the Government will set out in guidance.

Community Relations: Islam

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 19W, on community relations: Islam, what the timetable is for the report by the Change Institute on Understanding Muslim Ethnic Communities to be completed; and if she will place a copy in the Library on receipt. [222888]

Mr. Khan: The Understanding Muslim Ethnic Communities report will be subject to external peer review and copy editing before it is completed, which the Department anticipates will be by November. Following this, a decision will be taken on whether to publish the report and place a copy in the Library.

Council Housing

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department provided for the improvement of standards in council housing in each year since 1997. [222960]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the overall capital sums provided by CLG for capital investment in council owned housing stock from 1997-98 to 2007-08.

	CLG capital investment council owned stock (£ million)
1997-98	909
1998-99	1,135
1999-2000	1,126
2000-01	1,959
2001-02	2,378
2002-03	2,459
2003-04	2,683
2004-05	2,772
2005-06	3,055
2006-07	2,442
2007-08	2,516

Government investment in council owned housing stock has primarily been provided through the housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy system in the form of local authorities supported capital expenditure (SCE), ALMOs supported borrowing allocations and major repairs allowance (MRA).

Prior to 2006-07, local authorities were provided with SCE for the renewal of private sector housing combined with that for their own stock. In the table therefore the SCE for private sector renewal is included in the council housing column as it cannot be disaggregated until 2006-07, which also helps to explain the reduction in the level of council owned stock in 2006-07 from 2005-06 levels.

Council Housing: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether her Department has made an estimate of the average length of time a family has been on a socially provided housing waiting list before being suitably housed within *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland; [223914]

(2) how many families are on waiting lists for social housing within *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland. [223938]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information for average length of time on a housing waiting list is not collected centrally.

Information about social housing waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than families. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists.

At 1 April 2007, the number of households on the local authority housing waiting list in Cumbria was 13,119 and in Copeland was 1,935.

Information on the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists broken down by Government office region and local authority for 1997 to 2007 is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.xls

Copies of this table have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of socially provided homes that will need to be adapted for disabled tenants in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland over the next five years; [223931]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the number of empty disabled-adapted social homes in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in 2008-09. [223934]

Mr. Khan: The Department does not hold the requested information.

On 30 September we published the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North West. The RSS indicates that in Cumbria, 8,980 homes are required over the next five years and in Copeland 1,150 homes are required over the same period. It is now up to local authorities to decide on how this provision should be divided between market housing and affordable housing, including socially rented, intermediate and supported housing.

4NW (formally, the North West regional assembly) have commissioned a report looking at the needs for Support and Supported Housing Services in the North West from 2008 to 2020, which will help identify the need for supported housing. In response to this report, the Supporting People Commissioning Body in Cumbria has allocated £50,000 this year, to meet the shortfall in supply of accommodation based and non accommodation based services required for physical disabilities.

Across Cumbria, the county council and Copeland borough council in partnership with local housing associations are currently undertaking a housing needs survey to develop a disabled needs register. This will map current provision and ensure future housing projects meet the needs of the community. It is anticipated this work will be completed in 2009.

Council Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of progress in applying the decent homes standard to occupied council houses flooded in 2007 and still awaiting repair. [224440]

John Healey: Councils that had housing stock that was flooded in 2007 have regularly reported the impact of the floods including on their decent homes programme to CLG, the last report was in September. Nine authorities had 3,064 properties affected. It is for councils to prioritise their expenditure to deal with the repairs required by the floods. We have not been notified of any authority that faces a particular problem as a result of the flooding nor been asked for additional time to undertake remedial works and meet the decent homes standard.

Council Tax

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether billing authorities will have a liability for the administrative costs of rebilling in circumstances similar to the decision to cap Lincolnshire Police Authority in 2008 and issue new bills. [222572]

John Healey: No. As I made clear in my statement to the House on 9 July 2008, it is Lincolnshire police authority that is responsible for the costs of rebilling, not the billing authorities. The legislative basis for this can be found at section 31(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which councils reduced their absolute rate of council tax for 2008-09 compared to 2007-08. [222950]

John Healey: Details of the average Band D council tax in each local authority in England in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctaxtimes.xls

Council Tax: Floods

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what additional central funding has been given to local authorities to assist them in funding local council tax discounts for those affected by flooding. [222557]

John Healey: The Government have given local authorities £30.6 million through the Restoration Fund and £18.4 million through Flood Recovery Grant. Both of these sources of funding were not ring-fenced. This allowed local authorities to decide how best to use fund locally, including, if they wished, to fund council tax discounts. This is part of a Government overall package of £133 million made available to local areas to support recovery.

In addition I announced, in June, our intention to provide financial support to those authorities who exercise their discretion under section 13 A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to grant discounts in respect of the council tax payable on properties which are still vacant and require major repairs due to the floods of June and July 2007. We are currently in contact with local authorities to finalise the details.

Council Tax: Lincolnshire

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average band D 2008-09 council tax, *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding average parish precepts will be in each billing authority in Lincolnshire, following the decision to cap the police authority there in 2008. [222594]

John Healey: Details of the average band D council tax levels for 2008-09, both including and excluding average parish precepts, following the designation of the Lincolnshire Police Authority, are contained in a Statistical Release 'Updated council tax levels set by local authorities in England-2008-09'. This release was published on 21 August and available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctax089.htm

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the Valuation Office Agency's Programme Board of the council tax revaluation in England for the meetings of *(a)* 20 September 2005 and *(b)* 18 October 2005. [222589]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas) to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 27 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1285W. These minutes relate to internal discussion and advice to Ministers on the formulation and development of government policy.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what types of information are obtained from local authority building control and planning departments by the Valuation Office Agency for council tax valuation purposes; and what use is made of electronic billing authority reports in transferring such data. [222712]

John Healey: The information obtained from local authority building control and planning departments varies between authorities. Most provide no direct information, but the information from others can comprise commencement notices, completion notices and plans.

Electronic billing authority reports (e-BARs) are not used for transferring such information.

Departmental Advertising

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on advertising with general ledger account number 40001 in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [222654]

Mr. Khan: The central Department, including the Government offices, spent £528,905 on statutory advertising recorded against general ledger account code 40001 for the financial year ended 31 March 2008.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that her Department and its predecessors have participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul flights. [221976]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government offsets its air travel through the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. In 2006-07, Departments were only required to report on air travel broken down by short haul and long haul. In that year, the Department spent £2,730 to offset 275 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from its ministerial and official air travel in 2006-07.[1] This comprised 129,479 kilometres of short haul flights and 882,225 kilometres of long haul flights.

2006-07 was the first year that the Department offset any of its emissions.

Data from 2007-08 have been provided to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who will subsequently request payment for the Department's offsets, but figures and payment details are not yet finalised.

[1] These figures do not include data from the Department's Executive agencies or the regional Government offices.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether those staff of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [221983]

Mr. Khan: The current policy of the central Department for Communities and Local Government and its agencies is that all staff, including those entitled to business class or first class air travel, are required to travel in a cheaper class flight unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed beforehand by a senior manager. The class of air tickets that staff can use depends on the overall cost, relative convenience and duration of the flight. Benefits accrued as a result of official travel, such as "air miles", must not be used for personal travel but staff are encouraged to use them to offset the cost of future official journeys.

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* her Department and its predecessor and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [221986]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the last 24 months Communities and Local Government refurbished and occupied one floor at Portland House, Victoria Street, London, an area of approximately 1022 m^2.

Departmental Computers

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* the theft of her laptop, *(b)* the theft of her ministerial driver's mobile telephone and satellite navigation system and *(c)* the associated damage to her official car. [222595]

Mr. Khan: The desk top computer stolen from my right hon. Friend's constituency office was not provided by the Department. My right hon. Friend's official car is supplied under a lease agreement with the Government Car and Despatch Agency and the damage was repaired at no cost to the Department. Her ministerial driver's mobile telephone was covered by an insurance policy and was replaced without cost. The satellite navigation device was not insured and the cost of replacement of £192 has been met by the Department.

Departmental Consultants

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many consultants have been employed by her Department in each of the last five years. [222032]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North Cornwall (Dan Rogerson) on 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1250W.

Departmental Contracts

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 621-22W, on departmental contracts, who each of her Department's approved suppliers is; and which suppliers provide goods and services to her Department under an Office for Government Commerce-approved Product Framework Agreement. [222846]

Mr. Khan: The Department does not operate a list of approved suppliers.

Details of suppliers used under an Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions framework agreement could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [221981]

Mr. Khan: MOSAIC and ACORN data is made use of by the Department as an input into the following.

(a) MOSAIC

1. The National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal Evaluation

(b) ACORN

1. The CLG House Price Index;
2. Local Authority Formula Grant Distribution;
3. The Citizenship Survey.

None of the Department's agencies use either data set.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in her Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223054]

Mr. Khan: During the last 12 months (for the period July 2007 to July 2008) the Department for Communities and Local Government has dealt with less then five disciplinary breaches. As there have been less than five disciplinary breaches initiated, it would not be appropriate to give detailed information on grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Expenditure

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of expenditure may be undertaken by her Department without an approved purchase order. [222892]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on the 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 538W.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 622W, on departmental home working, if she will make it her policy to collate and maintain central records of home working by her Department's staff. [222534]

Mr. Khan: The Department's Human Resource database has been recently updated to record requests for flexible working patterns where working from home is a permanent feature of the arrangement.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what types of data have been sold by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [221984]

Mr. Khan: The Department does not keep this information centrally and this question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

The Departments Agencies have responded as follows, both Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and Planning Inspectorate have not sold any data in the last 12 months.

As the national mapping agency for Great Britain, Ordnance Survey provides a wide range of geodetic, geographical and topographic mapping information for sale or licence to users. These take the form of topographic maps and plans in paper and digital formats, together with digital gazetteers, digital road network data, digital terrain models and contours, satellite positioning data and paper records.

As a Trading Fund, the Fire Service College has delegated authority from the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) to administer its own Crown copyright and is able to license its information for re-use, in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations. The college is accredited to the OPSI information fair trader scheme and is committed to open and transparent dealings in regard to the licensing of its materials. Further details are published on the college website at

http://www.fireservicecollege.ac.uk/About+Us/Licensing

In the last 12 months the college has granted permission for the re-use of the following information:

Photographs

The college's library catalogue

Departmental Internet

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons her Department terminated its funding for the International Centre of Excellence for Local E-Democracy. [222658]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government fulfilled a commitment of two years original programme funding for the International Centre of Excellence for Local eDemocracy (ICELE) up to 31 March 2008. This was later extended to 30 June 2008 to enable ICELE to complete any transitional activities.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in her Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [221982]

Mr. Iain Wright: No permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in Communities and Local Government.

This answer does not include property occupied by Government Offices, who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to her Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [221979]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departmental procurement, how much and for what purpose public expenditure was incurred in respect of *(a)* Blue Rubicon, London, *(b)* Arts Club, Dover Street, London, *(c)* British Masonry Society, *(d)* Buffet4U, Birmingham, *(e)* Experian Ltd, *(f)* Euro RSCG 4D Digital, *(g)* Euro ESCG London Ltd, *(h)* the Conservative Campaign HQ, *(i)* the Labour Party, *(j)* the Liberal Democrat Party and *(k)* Cheese and Pickle Co., Sunderland. [222612]

Mr. Khan: The following table gives details of how much was spent with the listed bodies in 2007-08 financial year. A brief description of the purpose is also included.

Company	*Description*	*Total amount (£)*
Arts Club	Commission for Equalities and Human Rights working dinner with delegates	1,189
Blue Rubicon	Blue Rubicon have been engaged to provide PR consultancy in respect of the Energy Performance in Building Directive.	157,405
British Masonry Society	Renewal of Membership for International Masonry Society for 2008	225
Buffet4U	Buffet lunches	907
Cheese and Pickle Co	Buffet for 25 people	141
Conservative Campaign HQ	Relates to payments made by the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) when they were briefly part of the Department last year.	2,185
Euro RSCG 4D Digital	Transmission costs for Fire Kills national advertising and usage fee for advertisements.	166,468
Euro RSCG London Ltd	Associated costs with the Fire Kills campaign	370,269
Experian Ltd	Housing Statistics	8,460
Labour Party	Relates to payments made by the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) when they were briefly part of the Department last year	784
Liberal Democrats	Relates to payments made by the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) when they were briefly part of the Department last year	1,544

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departmental procurement, and 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 139W, on departmental records, if she will place in the Library a copy of the list of names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods or services to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office during the period it existed as a Government department from purchase order data held in the appropriate departmental financial system. [222639]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departmental procurement, what the aggregate amount paid to date has been to each organisation on the list supplied in 2007-08, according to purchase order data held in her Department's financial system. [222944]

Mr. Khan: This information could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departmental procurement, what payments her Department and its predecessor have made to Dave Collier's Only Murder Company since the establishment of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; on what dates; and at what cost. [222945]

Mr. Khan: Only one payment has been made to Dave Collier's Only Murder Company for £915 on 7 August 2008.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departmental procurement, how much was paid to menspeakers.co.uk of Ibstock in 2007-08; what the purpose of the expenditure was; and who was hired to provide services. [222946]

Mr. Khan: The Department paid £4,784 to Menspeakers for Rageh Omarr to speak as part of a series of joint Department/network events in connection with its commemoration of the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act 1807 in March 2007.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departmental procurement, how much was paid to *(a)* the Political Skills Forum, London, *(b)* Mysalepack plc, *(c)* Majestic Wine Warehouse Ltd, London, *(d)* Info Terra Limited, *(e)* Roll on Friday, Hatfield, *(f)* Fancyapint Limited, *(g)* Fancy a Nibble, *(h)* Financial Dynamics, *(i)* Il Cappuccino Catering, London, *(j)* Inn on the Lake Limited and *(h)* LLM Communications; and what the purpose of each payment was. [223065]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following payments were made to the listed companies in the financial year 2007-08;

Company	*Paid (£)*
Info Terra Ltd	125,410
Majestic Wine Warehouse Ltd	444
Fancyapint Ltd	6,833
Financial dynamics	52,738
Roll on Friday	90
Fancy a Nibble	462
LLM Communications	29,375
Il Cappuccino Catering	668
Mysalepack plc	75,905
Political Skills Forum	14,570
Inn on the Lake Ltd	402

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [221980]

Mr. Khan: I can confirm the spend of the Department and its predecessors on communications agencies included in the Public Relations framework of the Central Office of Information is as laid out in the following table:

	Department	Activity	Total (£)
2005-06	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	HMO Licensing	21,928.65
		Local e-gov take-up campaign	64,297.00
Total			86,225.65
2006-07	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	HMO Licensing	116,392.98
		Local e-gov take-up campaign	117,068.00
	Department for Communities and Local Government	Local e-gov take-up campaign	93,109.83
		Tenancy Deposit Protection	171,719.00
Total			498,289.81
2007-08	Department for Communities and Local Government	Energy Performance in Buildings Directive	3,400.00
		Tenancy Deposit Protection	36,167.90
Total			39,567.90
Grand total			624,083.36

In addition, the Department conducts some public relations activity, notably for the Fire Kills fire safety campaign, through the COI's in-house PR unit. For information on this and other communications activity I refer the hon. Member to the Department's annual reports.

Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and may save lives, as with Fire Safety. They must be communicated effectively to meet our duty to inform and in order for policies to be successful. There are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government communications.

Information on the spend of the Department's agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications *(a)* her Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [221985]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government was created in May 2006. There have been no applications made by *(a)* the Department for Communities and Local Government or *(b)* any of its Agencies under the Regulatory of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months.

This answer does not include the Government Offices who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Deprivation Indicators

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 24-25W, on deprivation indicators, if she will seek permission to publish the underlying indicators for each of the sub-domains of the 2004 Index of Deprivation. [222887]

John Healey: The indicators underpinning the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation were published in 2005-06 by the Office for National Statistics. The indicators can be accessed at

www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk.

Eco-towns

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether planning policies for eco-towns will *(a)* include the provision of a community heating system and *(b)* include mitigation measures to reduce the impact on surrounding areas; and what provisions there are in areas of (i) outstanding natural beauty and (ii) green belt in relation to minimum standards of green space and tree retention; [222476]

(2) whether planning policies for eco-towns will contain measures to *(a)* prevent or mitigate building on flood plains, *(b)* deal with any instances of contaminated land and *(c)* regulate the provision of car parking spaces and reduce car usage; [222583]

(3) whether her Department's planning policies for eco-towns will *(a)* be site specific, *(b)* specify a minimum number of affordable houses and their size and *(c)* specify the required level of transport infrastructure and public service provision. [222507]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our thinking on the standards that eco-towns will need to meet, including on affordable homes, flood risk, green belt, green infrastructure and transport are set out in "Eco-towns—living a greener future: progress report", published on 24 July 2008. In terms of affordable housing we have said that a minimum of 30 per cent., of homes should be affordable.

All eco-towns must comply with existing national policies and legislation, as well as meeting tough and stretching standards. More details about this will be set out in the draft planning policy statement that we will be publishing shortly for consultation.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what minimum level of the Code for Sustainable Homes homes in eco-towns will have to meet. [222562]

Mr. Iain Wright: In "Eco-towns—living a greener future: progress report" we have set out current thinking on the standards for eco-towns. In the draft planning policy statement we will be setting out a range of standards for homes in eco-towns concerning zero-carbon, waste, water and climate change, and we will publish this shortly.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated timetable is for *(a)* outline and *(b)* final planning permission to be granted for the successful eco-town bidders. [222563]

Mr. Iain Wright: We propose to announce the successful locations for eco-towns next year. Following this announcement local authorities will work closely with developers to bring forward schemes through the planning process culminating in a planning application or series of planning applications. Each application will be different and have different issues.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest timetable is for the decision to be made on selecting the final 10 eco-town bids. [222564]

Mr. Iain Wright: We will shortly be publishing the draft eco-towns planning policy statement and sustainability appraisal for consultation. We then expect to publish the final planning policy statement and a final list of locations with the potential to be an eco-town early in 2009. Individual schemes will then need to submit planning applications, which will be for local authorities to determine through the local planning process.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of whether local authorities may purchase land compulsorily for eco-towns to provide the land for the whole development. [222570]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities have numerous powers under which they may purchase land compulsorily if authorised to do so by the Secretary of State. Land for schemes such as town centre redevelopments is generally purchased using the power in section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The compulsory purchase order may include all the land required for the development, although it is usual to omit plots already owned by the local authority or its developer partner.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed Planning Policy Statement on eco-towns will be *(a)* locationally specific and *(b)* binding on local planning authorities. [222590]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Policy Statement (PPS) will set out the environmental and other standards for eco-towns that will help inform decisions on whether particular eco-towns will proceed. In the new year, following consultation on the PPS we will then publish the final Planning Policy Statement and a final list of locations with potential to be an eco-town.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether supporting infrastructure for new eco-town developments will be considered to be of nationally significant importance. [222592]

John Healey: Under the provisions of the Planning Bill, projects will be considered to be "nationally significant infrastructure projects" and dealt with by the Infrastructure Planning Commission where they meet specific thresholds; these are defined in clauses 15-29 of the Bill.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what visits and on what dates has she made to the locations proposed for the development of an eco-town in the last 12 months; and what such visits, on what dates, she plans to undertake in the next two months. [222673]

Mr. Iain Wright: My right hon. Friend the former Housing and Planning Minister made visits to 10 of the locations which were included on the short list of locations, set out in Eco-towns: Living a Greener Future consultation paper on 3 April 2008. The details of these are set out in the following table. As Rossington is a part of my right hon. Friend's constituency and for reasons of propriety I visited this location. We also plan to visit those locations that we have so far been unable to, including those locations where there have been discussions on the potential for an appropriate scheme such as Rushcliffe. The dates for these are yet to be agreed.

Location	*Date Minister visited*
Manby	22 May 2008
Marston	16 June 2008
Coltishall	23 June 2008
Hanley Grange	26 June 2008
NE Elsenham	26 June 2008
Rossington	23 July 2008
Pennbury	28 July 2008
Middle Quinton	28 July 2008
Ford	30 July 2008
Bordon-Whitehill	30 July 2008
Weston Otmoor	31 July 2008

Note:
Since announcement of the shortlist in April, Curborough withdrew from the process before visits could be arranged.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of *(a)* changes in the housing market and *(b)* local opposition on her Departments plans to establish 10 eco-towns. [222713]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government recognise that the housing market faces significant challenges as a result of turbulence in the global financial markets and is committed to taking action to alleviate pressures in the domestic housing market. Eco-towns are an important element in our long term strategy to provide the homes this country needs and to tackle climate change. Without action to increase the supply of housing, first-time buyers and growing numbers of families will continue to struggle to find the housing they need.

We have undertaken our first stage of consultation on eco-towns in which we sought initial views on the eco-towns vision and potential locations, and will shortly be publishing a summary of the responses. This has informed our second stage of consultation and we will shortly be publishing a draft Planning Policy Statement and Sustainability Appraisal for consultation. We want to hear all views and will be taking account of all the feedback from consultations and events before decisions are taken on those locations with the potential to be eco-towns, and before applications are considered through the local planning process.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will publish *(a)* a planning policy statement and *(b)* a sustainability strategy on eco-towns. [222817]

Mr. Iain Wright: We will shortly be publishing a draft eco-towns planning policy statement and sustainability appraisal for consultation. Copies of the document will be placed in the House Library once published.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 983W, on eco-towns, whether the leadership role of the Homes and Communities Agency in delivering eco-towns may include the Agency using its planning powers. [222875]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1354W.

Eco-towns Challenge Panel

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 625W, on the eco-towns challenge panel: business interests, what the declared *(a)* pecuniary and *(b)* non-pecuniary interests of each challenge panel member are. [223051]

Mr. Iain Wright: Members of the Challenge Panel were selected for their expertise in matters of the environment, sustainability, transport and design to be part of a short-term independent panel working with bidders during the first stage of the process for taking eco-towns forward.

At the first meeting of the panel in May, members were asked to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, and to advise us of any changes in their position for the duration of the panel (end July). Six members declared interests and these are set out as follows. None of these interests were deemed to conflict with the role of the panel, which was to help bidders develop and improve their plans, and they had no responsibility for assessing the proposals.

	Pecuniary interest
Joanna Yarrow	Director of Beyond Green. Beyond Green provided unpaid advice to the promoters of Weston Otmoor, and then withdrew. There was an initial expression of interest for Beyond Green's services from the promoters of Marston Vale and Bordon Whitehill, but no involvement.
Sue Riddestone	Director, BioRegional Development Group, a registered charity. BioRegional's associated consulting company were invited to bid for work by the Weston Otmoor eco-town promoters, but advised on 13 May that this was not going ahead.

	Non-pecuniary interests
Sir Peter Hall	Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) President (voluntary basis). TCPA are working with Communities and Local Government (CLG) on the practical implementation of the eco-town criteria and running the Eco-towns Expert Group. TCPA's work is not location/ scheme specific.
Lynda Addison	TCPA trustee (voluntary basis). TCPA are working with Communities and Local Government (CLG) on the practical implementation of the eco-town criteria and running the Eco-towns Expert Group. TCPA's work is not location/scheme specific.
Richard Simmons	Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) Chief Executive. CABE working with CLG on design aspects for eco-towns. One CABE Commissioner is working for the firm which was a consultant to three of the bidders and another is a consultant to a bidder. Neither has a commercial interest in the eco-town projects concerned.
Sunnd Prasad	Royal Institute for Architects (RIBA) President. Sue Smith, Chief Executive of Harborough district council, which is concerned with Pennbury eco-town, was a member of the RIBA Professional Services Board and resigned that position to avoid a potential conflict of interest, given the RIBA and RIBA President's involvement in the eco-towns programme.

Eco-towns: Road Traffic Control

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role she plans for *(a)* workplace parking taxes, *(b)* residential parking charges and *(c)* congestion taxes to play in eco-town developments. [222588]

Mr. Iain Wright: In "Eco-towns—living a greener future: progress report", we have set out our thinking on the standards for eco-towns, including those for transport. These set out the outcomes that we want to achieve, and it is for promoters to decide how they will achieve these. As part of the Town and Country Planning Association's work on the practical implementation of the standards they have produced a worksheet on transport. This provides guidance and good practice to help those taking forward eco-towns to plan and implement their transport systems.

More details about the standards will be provided in the draft Planning Policy Statement that we will be publishing shortly.

Eco-towns: Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to reject eco-town proposals where such development would cause indirect, irreparable damage to sites of special scientific interest as a result of interference with ground and surface water flows. [222659]

Mr. Iain Wright: As we set out in "Eco-towns—living a greener future: progress report" (published 24 July 2008) all eco-towns must comply with existing national policies, except where we have set a specific standard, which is either more specific, or more stretching than that set out in wider national planning policies and this includes protection and conservation of biodiversity and flood risk. Account will also need to be taken of European legislation on issues such as conservation.

We will shortly be publishing a draft Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement and Sustainability Appraisal for consultation, and these will set out more details about the standards, the locations and how their sustainability is assessed.

Eco-towns: Green Belt

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1135W, on eco-towns: land what the area and proportion is of *(a)* greenfield and *(b)* brownfield land use in each of the other short-listed eco-town bids; [222556]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 789W, on eco-towns: green belt, which proposed eco-town bids would involve development on green belt land for fixed infrastructure; [222640]

(3) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W, on eco-towns, which proposed eco-town developments will involve development on greenfield land; [222741]

(4) whether any of the proposed eco-town developments will require development of associated infrastructure on green belt land. [222977]

Mr. Iain Wright: An updated description of the proposals for each location was included in "Eco-towns—living a greener future: progress report" which was published on 24 July 2008. Further information will be published shortly in the Sustainability Appraisal alongside our draft eco-towns planning policy statement as part of our second stage consultation. Copies of these documents will be placed in the House Library.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221838]

Mr. Khan: In all cases expenditure was for the supply of electricity under the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions Framework Agreement. Where figures have not been supplied for the full 10 years this was because they could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The following amounts were paid to EDF Energy by the Department for our central London offices:

Property	2005-06	2006-07	£ 2007-08
Allington Towers	51,374	95,639	71,456
Ashdown House	354,327	455,203	298,916
Eland House	364,905	624,579	350,303
Portland House	0	0	13,493

Figures prior to 2005 and for the wider estate could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's Agencies have paid the following:

Fire Service College

	£
2003-04	143,839.92
2004-05	164,957.11
2005-06	218,271.22
2006-07	325,142.95
2007-08	208,109.46

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

	£
2002-03	214,927
2003-04	257,284
2004-05	321,502
2005-06	322,427
2006-07	322,772
2007-08	369,086

Ordnance Survey

	£
2003-04	175,810
2004-05	939,244
2005-06	546,350
2006-07	657,037
2007-08	646,697

Planning Inspectorate

	£
2002-03	3,995
2003-04	127,202
2004-05	163,406
2005-06	183,153
2006-07	284,565
2007-08	243,345

Empty Homes Agency

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has provided for the Empty Homes Agency in each year since the Agency was established; and what funding has been allocated for the Agency for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [221803]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows grant funding by CLG and its predecessor organisation to the Empty Homes Agency in each year since 1995-06 up to 2008-09.

Funding allocated for the Empty Homes Agency in 2008-09 is £100,000. CLG have not yet made any decision regarding the allocation of funding to the Empty Homes Agency post 2008-09. This is in line with previous years' arrangements.

	Grant (£)
1995-96	28,500
1996-97	30,000
1997-98	30,844
1998-99	54,575
1999-2000	58,770

	Grant (£)
2000-01	46,885
2001-02	80,000
2002-03	70,000
2003-04	60,000
2004-05	100,000
2005-06	100,000
2006-07	100,000
2007-08	100,000
2008-09	[1]100,000

[1] Current year

Empty Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial properties there are in (i) St. Albans, (ii) London and (iii) England; and what steps she is taking to encourage property owners to bring these properties back into use. [222031]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of empty residential dwellings in (i) St. Albans, (ii) London and (iii) England in 2007.

Region	Empty domestic dwellings as at 9 October 2007
St. Albans	1,446
London	84,596
England	762,635

Source:
Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities

Initiatives to bring empty homes back into use are, rightly, channelled through local authorities who are best placed to assess what measures are appropriate to their local circumstances. In the first instance, we encourage local authorities to work with owners to persuade them of the benefits of bringing their property back into use.

However, where it is clear that owners are not prepared to co-operate with efforts to get their property occupied through agreement, we have provided enforcement powers to deal with them. Key powers are compulsory purchase and enforced sale which were added to by the Housing Act 2004 by which introduced a new power for local authorities to make empty dwelling management orders (EDMOs) in respect of long-term empty homes. An EDMO allows a local authority to take over the management of an unoccupied dwelling in certain circumstances.

Empty Property: Charities

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 625W, on empty properties: charities, whether an impact assessment was produced on the effect of the empty business rate changes on property owned by charities which is not wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes. [222848]

John Healey: Where the liable ratepayer of an empty property is a charity and it appears that when next in use the property will not be wholly or mainly used for a charitable purpose, the impact of empty business rates will be the same as if the property was owned by a business. An impact assessment detailing the impact of the empty property reforms was published by Communities and Local Government in May 2007 accompanying the introduction of the Rating (Empty Properties) Bill and a further assessment was laid before this House on the 26 February accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008—number: 386.

Empty Property: Flats

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the empty dwellings in England were flats in the most recent period for which figures are available. [222884]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on vacancies by type of dwelling is not held centrally.

Empty Property: Non-domestic Rates

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency has made of whether businesses are demolishing buildings to avoid paying empty property business rates; [222565]

(2) what assessment has been made of the level of avoidance and evasion of empty property business rates. [222854]

John Healey: The Government have asked local authorities and the valuation office agency to provide information about how reforms to the empty property rate are working. The information provided on evasion of empty property rates will be based on the informed judgment of individual officers and is being gathered as a broad indicator of the scale of possible avoidance activity and not a detailed survey. There is no suggestion the activity in question is unlawful and we will set out in an appropriate form our general findings in due course.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether properties which are *(a)* boarded up and *(b)* without a roof are liable for empty property business rates. [222688]

John Healey: Whether a property, which is *(a)* boarded up and or *(b)* without a roof, is liable for empty property rates would depend on whether the property is considered rateable. Under the Rating (Valuation) Act 1999, one of the assumptions for valuation purposes is that a building is assumed to be in a reasonable state of repair, except for any repairs that the landlord would regard as uneconomic.

Where it would be economic to repair a building the assumption is that the repairs would be carried out. It is the responsibility of the Valuation Office Agency to determine, on the merits of each individual case, whether a property remains rateable and therefore liable to non-domestic rates, including empty property rates.

English Partnerships: Brahm

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many payments English Partnerships has made to Brahm for public affairs, public relations or stakeholder engagement contracts; which contracts for future work have been agreed; and what the value of such contracts is. [222921]

Mr. Iain Wright: English Partnerships has made nine payments, covering 12 invoices totalling £54,032.50 to Brahm in the past 18 months, with a sum of £7,339 committed but not yet invoiced. No contracts for future work have been agreed with the company.

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in her Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222269]

John Healey: This Government are firmly committed to the importance of the EU in delivering on 21st-century challenges. The EU is of central importance to the work of HM Government across all Departments. It is relevant to a wide range of policy areas, and to the work of many Government officials. As such, the specific information requested is not held centrally, and to provide it would involve disproportionate costs.

European Regional Development Fund

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's resource accounts for 2006-07 what the fines are that her Department *(a)* has received and *(b)* is expected to receive in respect of ERDF programme irregularities; and if she will make a statement. [224485]

John Healey: The European Commission imposed financial corrections on two ERDF programmes in England in 2007-08 which amounted to €25 million. The Commission is considering the imposition of two further financial corrections in respect of ERDF programmes that operated in the late 1990s. Details are given in the Communities and Local Government resource accounts 2007-08 (HC791).

Fire Extinguishers

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to encourage people to put fire extinguishers in their homes. [222012]

Mr. Khan: The installation of properly maintained smoke alarms in every household has been the centrepiece of our efforts to reduce fire deaths in the home as they provide the vital early warning of fire and help people escape. Through the Fire Kills campaign, we also promote in the "Fire Safety in the Home" leaflet, other fire safety equipment householders could consider, such as fire extinguishers and fire blankets.

Fire Prevention

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps the Government has taken to encourage people to take precautions to prevent fires; [222013]

(2) what steps the Government has taken to promote fire safety in homes; [222014]

(3) what steps the Government plans to take to inform people about fire safety; [222015]

(4) what steps the Government has taken to educate the public on how to react to a fire. [222016]

Mr. Khan: The Government are committed to raising awareness of fire safety and does so through the long standing Fire Kills media campaign. This campaign supports the outreach work carried out at a local level by the Fire and Rescue Service, but also educates and informs people through the promotion of fire safety messages at a national level. A variety of leaflets and campaign material is available, which features the key messages on fire safety in the home, as well as advice on how to behave if a fire breaks out. This material is distributed through the many branches of the campaign and by the Fire and Rescue Service.

The Fire Kills media campaign is led by TV advertising, with our fire safety advert having been shown in January to March and September this year and then again in January next year. The advert delivers the important message of smoke alarm maintenance and reminds people what damage a fire can do. The TV advert is supported by innovative work which targets the vulnerable and harder to reach groups of society that were established through research. Our partnerships with organisations and charities, such as the British Darts Organisation, the Royal National Institute for Deaf People and Age Concern, are built upon by our PR work to enable us to better reach these target groups.

Fire Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hoax 999 calls were answered by the fire service in London in the last period for which figures are available. [222761]

Mr. Khan: During 2006-07, London Fire Brigade received 9,702 hoax 999 calls, and attended to 3,159 of them.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on requiring local fire and rescue authorities to move their operations into a regional fire control centre if they do not voluntarily agree to do so; and if she will make a statement. [224483]

Mr. Khan: We are working closely with all interested parties, including chief fire officers, Fire and Rescue Authorities and local authority controlled companies, to deliver the FiReControl Project.

As the recently published Business Case Part 1: The Regional Cases show, FiReControl will significantly enhance national resilience and will provide a much greater functionality for the fire and rescue service in England. Communities and Local Government is

committed to delivering this project. "The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008 to 2011" reinforced this commitment.

Communities and Local Government have worked in partnership with other interested parties to deliver the FiReControl Project, and wishes to continue working in this way. But because of its importance we would consider, as a last resort, the use of powers under sections 22 and 29 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to ensure a successful move to FiReControl Network.

Fire Services: Equipment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government spent on modernising equipment used by the Fire Service in 2007-08. [224289]

Mr. Khan: The Department's Fire and Resilience Programme is providing the Fire and Rescue Service with the resilience needed to meet the challenges of an increased terrorist threat and the risks posed by major incidents such as last year's flooding. The programme comprises: the New Dimension programme to provide response equipment and training; Firelink to provide a single, resilient, digital, wide-area radio system able to communicate with the police and ambulance services; and FiReControl, which will create a network of nine integrated and fully networked regional control centres in England. The Department spent £128.5 million on the programme in 2007-08, of which £28 million was capital expenditure. This is in addition to support which the Department provides to the service through Revenue Support Grant.

Fire Services: Helicopters

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average annual *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital cost to the public purse of a fire service helicopter was in the last period for which figures are available; and she will make a statement. [222464]

Mr. Khan: None of the Fire and Rescue Services in England owns a helicopter. A number of Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in England participate in schemes utilising helicopters owned by other organisations, such as the private sector, the police, the ambulance service, HM Coastguard and the armed forces.

Information on the costs incurred by FRAs which participate in such schemes is not held centrally.

Fire Services: South West

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the publication of the updated business case for the South West Regional Fire Control Centre. [222619]

Mr. Khan: The business case for FiRe Control is being published in two parts. Part 1: "The Regional Case" was published on the 8 July and was placed in the House library. Part 2: "The National Case" will be published later in the year.

Fire Services: Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to improve training facilities for the Fire Service. [224290]

Mr. Khan: Within Communities and Local Government's Fire and Resilience Programme, the New Dimension project is enhancing the capability of the Fire and Rescue Service to respond to particular types of major emergencies. Through this project the Department provided over £8 million in 2005 to build a central training facility for urban search and rescue (USAR) at the Fire Service College and, in 2007, a further £2 million towards the costs of local training facilities for those fire and rescue authorities hosting USAR teams.

Since 2004 the Department has also provided capital funding of £7.5 million for upgrading the Fire Service College's facilities, including the construction of a new student accommodation block providing 100 en suite bedrooms.

First Time Buyers

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to assist first-time buyers with property purchases; and how many first-time buyers she estimates will receive such assistance in 2008-09. [221898]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's Low Cost Home Ownership programme helps to make home ownership more affordable to first time buyers, and enables purchasers to get a foot on the property ladder through its HomeBuy scheme: New Build HomeBuy, Open Market HomeBuy and Social HomeBuy.

New Build HomeBuy enables people to buy a minimum 25 per cent., share of a newly built property, paying a rent on the remainder. This includes the First Time Buyers Initiative.

Open Market HomeBuy enables people to buy a property on the open market with the help of an equity loan of up to 50 per cent.

Social HomeBuy enables tenants of participating local authorities and housing associations to buy a minimum 25 per cent., in their current home at a discount and pay rent on the remainder.

We have helped over 65,000 households into home ownership over the last three years.

The Government want to offer as many people as possible the opportunity to own their own home and build a stake in their community. We are committed to take action to increase confidence and help ensure stability and fairness in the housing market. We therefore announced a package of new initiatives to help more first time buyers into affordable home ownership.

As announced by the Chancellor in the 2008 Budget, on 1 April two new equity loan products were made available through the Government's Open Market HomeBuy scheme. The loans provide first time buyers with more flexibility in the percentage of the value of their home that can be borrowed—to a maximum of 50 per cent., and more choice in the mortgage they can take out.

In addition we have expanded the eligibility criteria for our HomeBuy products so that all first time buyers

with a household income under £60,000 who could otherwise not afford to buy, will be eligible for our New Build HomeBuy and Open Market HomeBuy products. Up to £100 million is being focussed on expanding Open Market HomeBuy to help 2,500 first time buyers to purchase a new build home from developers in 2008-09.

In order to help households who, because of current market conditions may now be unable to access home ownership through the HomeBuy scheme, we announced a pilot "Rent to HomeBuy" scheme to support first time buyers into affordable home ownership by renting first and buying later.

Finally, in September, as part of a wider housing package, we announced the creation of a new product "HomeBuy Direct" in partnership with house builders. HomeBuy Direct is designed to help up to 10,000 first time buyers into affordable home ownership in new homes over the next two years, offering equity loans of up to 30 per cent., which will be co-funded by developers.

Overall, despite market uncertainty, the Government's aspiration is to support up to 25,000 households into home ownership in 2008-09.

First Time Buyers: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of first-time buyers who purchased a home in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in the last five years. [223937]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on UK total number of first time buyers (FTBs) using a mortgage are available from the Regulated Mortgage Survey which is supplied to Communities and Local Government by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. However, as the survey is a sample, data on the number of FTBs are unavailable for Cumbria and Copeland specifically.

Flats

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of newly-built dwellings were flats in each year since 1996-97. [222674]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 770W.

Greenbelt: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 790-91W, on green belt: databases, for what reasons the Maps on Tap database was discontinued; and what the total cost of the project was. [222641]

Mr. Iain Wright: Maps on Tap provided an online interactive mapping portal for central Government. It was discontinued to enable a re-focusing of the services developed by the project to support this Department's requirements.

The total cost of the Maps on Tap project was £4.83 million. This was made up of £3.03 million development costs (as reported to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1189W) and £1.80 million running costs.

Greenbelt: Guildford

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her statement of 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1449-51, on protecting the Green Belt, if she will make it her policy to ensure that the approved South East Plan should not propose or facilitate the weakening of Green Belt protection in north east Guildford. [224514]

Mr. Khan: We have made it clear in national policy statements and in the Housing Green Paper that Government remains committed to the principles of the Green Belt.

Following a recommendation by the independent Panel which examined the draft South East Plan, the Government's 'Proposed Changes' to the draft include a possible selective review of the Green Belt at Guildford. They also state that where Green Belt land is lost reviews should consider the designation of additional Green Belt land. These Proposed Changes are currently out for public consultation, and we are seeking views on the proposals until 24 October. Because of this formal round of public consultation and the need to make sure that we consider the views of all interested parties, I am not in a position to comment on the contents of the final version of the South East Plan at this stage.

Hazardous Substances: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend land use planning rules around major hazard sites following the recommendations of the Buncefield accident review. [222923]

Mr. Iain Wright: We will consider carefully the recommendations in the report of the Buncefield Major Incident Investigation Board (MIIB) about land use planning as it applies to major hazard sites. We will respond in due course.

Hazardous Substances: Waste Management

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what national guidance she issues on the location of hazardous waste management facilities. [222720]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's national planning policy for waste management is provided in Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management. It sets out that positive planning has an important role to play in delivering sustainable waste management by providing sufficient opportunities for new waste management facilities of the right type, in the right place and at the right time, including for hazardous waste. Accompanying guidance to support the implementation of PPS10 is provided in 'Planning for Sustainable Waste Management: Companion Guide to Planning Policy Statement 10'.

In addition, Annex C9 to the Government's 'Waste Strategy 2007 for England' published in May 2007 sets out an assessment of capacity need for hazardous waste to guide regional planning bodies and business in the planning and procurement of new hazardous waste infrastructure.

Heathrow Airport: Planning Permission

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what approval for the introduction of mixed mode at Heathrow airport would be required from *(a)* the Infrastructure Planning Commission and *(b)* Hillingdon Borough Council. [224472]

John Healey: Depending on final policy decisions on the future development of Heathrow Airport, the introduction of mixed mode, should the airport operator decide to take forward proposals, would, under present legislation:

not require planning permission if it involved no change in the existing planning condition setting a maximum limit of 480,000 on the number air transport movements using the airport per year;

require planning permission from the local planning authority (unless the application was called in by the Secretary of State for decision) if it involved an increase in the number of air transport movements to a level above that limit.

If a proposal for the introduction of mixed mode was to come forward after enactment and implementation of the Planning Bill, then under the provisions of that Bill it would:

not require planning permission or development consent if it involved no change in the existing planning condition setting a maximum limit of 480,000 on the number air transport movements using the airport per year;

require planning permission from the local planning authority (unless the application was called in by the Secretary of State for decision) if it involved an increase in the number of air transport movements to a level above that limit but the expansion fell below the threshold specified in clause 22 of the Planning Bill of 10 million additional passengers or 10,000 additional air transport movements of cargo aircraft per year;

require development consent under this Bill if the increase was above that threshold. This would mean it would be examined by the IPC. If an NPS was in force the IPC would determine the case. If not a recommendation would be made by the IPC to the Secretary of State.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 626-27W, on home information packs, what the timetable is for her Department to consider whether home condition reports should be mandatory. [222847]

Mr. Iain Wright: Members of our Stakeholder Panel on Home Buying and Selling are currently considering proposals for encouraging take-up of property condition information within home information packs. The panel will submit its proposals for our consideration in the autumn.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what penalties may be imposed upon a householder not completing, in whole or in part, information on a Property Information Questionnaire on a home information pack and then marketing a property. [224501]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Home Information Pack Regulations provide that the person responsible for marketing the property must ensure that a valid pack is provided to potential buyers. This would include ensuring a completed PIQ has been included in the HIP. In the vast majority of cases the responsible person will be the seller's estate agent.

The local weights and measures authority has the power to issue a penalty charge notice of £200 on the responsible person for a breach of the HIP duties.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will use her powers under section 162 of the Housing Act 2004 to suspend the requirement to produce a home information pack to market a property. [224502]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no plans to suspend Home Information Packs.

Homelessness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what categories of *(a)* men and *(b)* women are entitled to receive housing under statutory homelessness regulations; and if she will make a statement; [221771]

(2) what guidance she gives to local authorities on the definition of vulnerability when considering young men for local authority housing under statutory homelessness regulations; and if she will make a statement. [221772]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996), local housing authorities must secure accommodation for applicants who are eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and fall within a priority need group. Some categories of persons from abroad are ineligible for homelessness assistance (other than the provision of advice and information about homelessness and the prevention of homelessness).

The Secretary of State has issued the "Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities" which includes statutory guidance on, among other things, eligibility and priority need. Copies of the code are available in the Library of the House; the code can also be viewed on the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/homelessnesscode

Chapter 9 provides guidance on eligibility; a person's gender is not relevant to whether or not they will be eligible for assistance. Chapter 10 provides guidance on priority need, including the test of vulnerability (equally applicable to both sexes) and the full list of priority need categories. Apart from pregnant women these categories are not gender specific.

Homelessness: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many private sector homes for homeless people were used in each of the last five years by Castle Point Borough Council, *(a)* within the borough and *(b)* outside the borough; [221773]

(2) how many registered homeless people originating from outside Castle Point are housed within the borough. [221858]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Information collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Data are collected on the number of households being housed in temporary accommodation as at the end of each quarter. The figures include: those households who have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The total number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by a local authority includes households housed both within and outside their own borough. The table shows data reported by Castle Point, for 2003-04 to 2007-08 (as at the last day of March each year).

Table 1: Households in temporary accommodation arranged by Castle Point (as at end March)—within borough and outside borough

	Total temporary accommodation arranged by Castle Point	*of which within borough*	*of which outside borough*
2003-04	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2004-05	183	[1]—	[1]—
2005-06	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2006-07	154	[1]—	[1]—
2007-08	119	114	5

[1] Data not reported
Source:
Quarterly PIE return

Authorities report on the types of accommodation used as temporary accommodation, some of which fall in (or mainly in) the private sector:

Bed and breakfast hotels

Other nightly paid, privately managed accommodation—both shared facilities and self-contained

Private sector accommodation leased by authority

Private sector accommodation leased or managed by RSLs

Directly with a private sector landlord

Any other type of accommodation (most of which is likely to be private sector)

Data reported by Castle Point are provided for 2003-04 to 2007-08, and show the number of households in these mainly private sector forms of temporary accommodation as at the end of March each year. However, data on the number of households accommodated within and outside the borough, in private sector accommodation, are not collected centrally.

Table 2: Households in temporary accommodation arranged by Castle Point (as at end March)—private sector and total

	Private sector accommodation	*Total temporary accommodation*
2003-04	[1]—	[1]—
2004-05	142	183
2005-06	[1]—	[1]—
2006-07	126	154
2007-08	115	119

[1] Data not reported.
Source:
Quarterly PIE return

The number of households in temporary accommodation originating from outside the local authority in which they are housed is not collected centrally.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department provided to Castle Point borough council to support its provision of housing for registered homeless *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* families in each of the last five years. [222458]

Mr. Iain Wright: Revenue funding for local authority homelessness services is principally provided through revenue support grant which is unhypothecated. The Government additionally provide homelessness grants to support all local housing authorities' strategies for tackling and preventing all forms of homelessness, including rough sleeping.

The following table shows total allocations of homelessness grant to Castle Point borough council for each of the five years from 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Homelessness grant for Castle Point borough council

	Total (£000)
2007-08	60.0
2006-07	60.0
2005-06	45.0
2004-05	45.0
2003-04	45.0

On 5 December 2007, we announced homelessness grant funding of at least £150 million over the three years 2008-11 to continue to support local authorities to tackle and prevent homelessness. This is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services.

Since 2003, administering authorities have been allocated funding through the Supporting People programme, to support the most vulnerable people in their communities through the provision of housing-related support, based on their local knowledge of the needs of vulnerable people in their areas. This would include homelessness funding for men, women and families if needed. Essex, the administering authority for Castle Point borough council, received a Supporting People programme grant allocation of:

	£
2004-05	31,742,850
2005-06	30,144,101
2006-07	29,622,839
2007-08	29,622,839
2008-09	29,622,839

Homelessness: Young People

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many 16 and 17 year-olds *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received homelessness assistance in each housing authority in England in each of the last five years. [222683]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Information collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available).

Data on total decisions taken under Part 7 by age band are not collected centrally.

Local authorities provide advice and assistance to some applicants not owed a main homelessness duty, but data on such assistance are not collected centrally by age band. However information on those applicants accepted as owed a main homelessness duty is collected by priority need category, one of which is applicants in priority need because they are 16 or 17 years old.

A table has been placed in the Library showing the number of applicants accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, with priority need primarily through being 16 or 17 years old. However it is important to note that some 16 and 17 year old applicants may have been accepted in alternative primary priority need categories, for example through having dependant children or being a pregnant woman, and so will not show up in these figures. Some authorities collect and report secondary priority need categories of applicants (when they fall into more than one priority need group), and these figures are also presented. Data are provided for each local authority, between 2003-04 and 2007-08.

Housing Estates

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to review the effects of open plan planning policy on large housing estates. [222628]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning for Housing policy is currently set out in Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3), which was published in November 2006. Specific aspects of this policy, such as density rates and development on brownfield land, are collected by the Department and published regularly. This detail helps guide policy development, for example the effectiveness and achievement of the target that 60 per cent. of all development should be on brownfield land.

It is general practice to review the overall effectiveness of policy after it has had time to establish itself, although I cannot say yet when this will happen for PPS3 which has only been in place for 21 months.

Housing: Advisory Services

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent to support advice services for homeowners in each of the last three years; and how much *(a)* has been spent in 2008-09 and *(b)* is expected to be spent in each of the next three years. [222558]

Mr. Iain Wright: CLG will be providing over £200 million to local authorities and the voluntary sector over the next 3 years, including the current year, to tackle and prevent homelessness effectively. This is the biggest cash injection for homelessness services. All local authorities receive a homelessness grant allocation and nearly all will use some of this allocation to fund advice services enabling them to prevent homelessness, including assisting home owners. Funding from CLG is not ring-fenced; it is therefore at the discretion of each local authority to determine how best to use the funding to serve its community.

Within this £200 million, CLG provide direct funding to the National Homeless Advisory Service (currently £2.5 million PA) for the very specialist homeless prevention work carried out by Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Shelter. NHAS have recently produced a leaflet advising homeowners on preventing repossession. This is being distributed by Courts, Councils CAB and other advice agencies

All local authorities fund their local CAB networks separately. This is through local service level agreements.

We also announced on the 2 September that we will be providing a £200 million mortgage rescue scheme, which will help 6,000 of the most vulnerable households facing repossession over the next two years.

Housing: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance has been given by *(a)* local and *(b)* national government to individual householders whose properties were flooded in Bassetlaw constituency in 2007. [224443]

John Healey: We do not hold records on what assistance local authorities provided to individual householders whose properties were flooded in 2007.

In response to the 2007 summer floods, central Government made available a comprehensive package around £133 million to assist the affected regions and help those in greatest need. Bassetlaw district council received a total of £421,619 in flood recovery funding. This consisted of £250,000 flood recovery grant, £131,181 Bellwin funding and £40,438 from the restoration fund.

Flood recovery grant and the restoration fund was unringfenced so local authorities had the flexibility to decide how best to use the grant based on their own local circumstances. In practice, this has included support payments to flood affected households; purchase and

provision to flood affected households of new household items, provision of temporary caravans to allow people to remain within their communities while houses are repaired; and other priorities set through consultation with flood-affected householders and communities.

Due to the unringfenced nature of flood recovery grant and the restoration fund, local authorities were not required to inform Government as to how this money was spent. We are therefore unable to say how much of the central Government funding allocated to Bassetlaw district council was provided to individual households, although this is information that the council may provide.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average annual volume of carbon dioxide emissions from domestic dwellings for designated level *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five and *(f)* six under the Code for Sustainable Homes. [222675]

Mr. Iain Wright: The average annual volume of carbon dioxide emissions within the Code for Sustainable Homes are expressed as improvements against the standards set in the Building Regulations Approved Document L (2006) and measured using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP).

The target emission rate for an average home meeting the standards in Part L of the Building Regulations 2006 is 2203 kg of carbon dioxide emissions a year. An average home is defined as a semi-detached house with a gas-fired central heating boiler, a floor area of 100m^2 with typical occupancy and patters of heating and hot water usage for average UK weather data. The model only takes into account regulated energy use (space and hot water heating, ventilation and fixed lighting); it does not take into account use of appliances. In Code Level 6 the dwelling must be 'net' zero carbon over a year, which does include appliances. These figures are target emission rates and developers will use a variety of different solutions to achieve compliance.

Code Level	*Percentage improvement over 2006 Part L building regulations*	*Carbon dioxide emissions kg/year for average home*
1	10	1,983
2	18	1,806
3	25	1,652
4	44	1,234
5	100	0
6	100	0

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the target dates are for all *(a)* new build private sector homes and *(b)* new build social housing to meet (i) Level 4 and (ii) Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. [222853]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Code for Sustainable Homes is a voluntary national standard for designing and building of sustainable homes. There are no UK Government target dates for private homes to reach Code level 4 or 6 as a whole. However the Code energy efficiency component does signal the future direction of building regulations. There will be a progressive tightening of the energy efficiency standards, by 25 per cent. in 2010 and by 44 per cent. in 2013—up to the zero carbon target in 2016. In 2009 part G of the building regulations will be revised to ensure all new homes are designed and built with an internal water use of 120 litres (plus five for external use) per person per day, which is similar to Code level 1 and 2 water efficiency levels. Other elements such as site management are also being incorporated into legislation.

Homes that receive grant funding from the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme or English Partnership must be built to a minimum Code level 3. Current plans are to change this to Code level 4 in 2010 and level 6 in 2013.

The Code for Sustainable Homes is designed to provide designers, developers and builders a flexible framework to innovate and prepare for higher future sustainability standards.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to ensure developers take account of the wishes of the local community. [224178]

Mr. Iain Wright: All planning applications have a statutory period for consultation. The local authority, in determining a planning application, must take comments into account and make both the decision and the reasons publicly available. Statements of community involvement should explain how the authority will involve the community in determining planning applications.

Better community involvement is one of the Government's key aims in reforming the planning system. The principles are in PPS1 "Delivering Sustainable Development" which emphasises the importance of pre-application discussions so that proposals can be adapted to ensure that they better reflect community aspirations. Planning Performance Agreements have been introduced to help local authorities and developers manage large-scale major planning applications and these should make clear what level of resources and community engagement are required.

Under proposals for nationally significant infrastructure projects in the Planning Bill, developers will have to undertake a thorough pre-application consultation process. Developers will need to draw up and publish a statement setting out how they propose to consult local people about the proposed development, and then carry out the consultation in accordance with this.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to encourage developers to provide amenities for the local community. [224179]

Mr. Iain Wright: In order to ensure that developers provide amenities for the local community as part of development proposals, Government policy requires local authorities to ensure that green and other public spaces are incorporated as part of developments, and that developments support local facilities and are visually

attractive. This policy is set out in 'Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1): Delivering Sustainable Development', which was published in 2005.

In addition, local planning authorities can use planning obligations to mitigate the impacts of new developments, and to secure contributions from developers to compensate for the loss or damage to a local amenity caused by a development proposal, in order to make the proposal acceptable in planning terms. This is set out in 'Circular 05/05 on Planning Obligations'.

Both documents are available in the House Library.

Housing: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of homes required to house key workers in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in the next five years. [223915]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not hold data on the number of homes required to house key workers. Any such assessment would be for key worker employers in the area to undertake.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many private home owners have received disability adaptation grants in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in the last five years; [223933]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the number of private sector homes that will need to be adapted for disabled owners in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland over the next five years. [223932]

Mr. Khan: The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is a mandatory grant used to provide adaptations to the homes of disabled people. Local authorities in England report their annual Disabled Facilities Grant number of recipients to Communities and Local Government through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). The information is not broken down by tenure type. Social housing tenants receive assistance from other local authority funding streams.

The following table sets out the numbers of Disabled Facilities Grant for all authorities in Cumbria including Copeland borough council for 2002-03 to 2006-07. The Department does not hold information on prospective recipients of the grant for the next five years. However the 2006-07 HSSA does offer a forecast for 2007-08 and 2008-09 which has been included in the table.

It is the Department's intention to publish the 2007-08 data in the HSSA report at the end of November.

Cumbria	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Allderdale	59	76	79	85	85	85	85
Barrow in Furness	57	51	61	72	82	100	100
Copeland	35	54	46	42	50	55	50
Eden	29	25	30	27	35	39	30
S Lakeland	14	34	33	28	39	30	40
Total	194	240	249	239	291	309	305

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has identified any suitable properties that could be purchased under the unsold stock programme within *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland to help meet affordable housing needs. [223935]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation is actively working with all the local authorities in Cumbria both individually and through the Cumbria Affordable Housing Sub Group to encourage bids for affordable housing in Cumbria, particularly in small rural settlements with population of less than 3,000. This includes schemes that will complete in the current financial year, to either buy existing properties or new build stock which developers are struggling to sell in current market conditions.

In a recent meeting with the Housing Corporation, Cumbrian authorities including Copeland confirmed that they had been approached by developers regarding unsold stock. The proposals are currently being investigated but as yet have not resulted in any detailed bids to the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home repossessions there were in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in the last five years. [223936]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Financial Services Authority. However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders data is available on their website at

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/filegrab/3AP4.xls?ref=2753

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of socially provided homes that will be needed to meet housing needs in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland over the next five years; [223956]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the number of private sector homes that will be needed to meet housing needs in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland over the next five years. [223957]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 30 September we published the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North West.

The RSS indicates that in Cumbria, 8,980 homes are required over the next five years and in Copeland 1,150 homes are required over the same period. It is now up to local authorities to decide on how this provision should be divided between market housing and affordable housing, including social rented and intermediate housing. Authorities will take forward this process through local development frameworks.

Housing: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will produce a privacy impact assessment on her Department's proposals to allow access to the Energy Performance Certificate database by any energy assessor. [222544]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government is carrying out a full audit on the security of all data forming part of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive programme.

Housing: Disabled

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to provide sufficient affordable housing for people with disabilities. [222367]

Mr. Iain Wright: Through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme for the 2008-11 period we have already approved over £300 million to deliver affordable housing for those with supported housing needs including older people. This funding also includes the Home Ownership for Long-term Disabilities (HOLD) scheme, a low cost home ownership scheme specifically designed for people with long term disabilities.

Through the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, we are establishing the Homes and Communities Agency. One of the objects of this new organisation is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and good design with a view to meeting the needs of people living in England. Good design specifically includes design which has due regard to the needs of elderly persons and disabled persons.

"Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society", sets out our aspiration to see all new homes built to Lifetime Homes Standards by 2013. Lifetime Homes Standards are inexpensive, simple features designed to make homes more flexible and functional for all. We will undertake a review of Lifetime Homes Standards take-up across all sectors in 2010. We will also use standards set out in the code for Sustainable Homes to ensure that all public sector funded housing is built to Lifetime Homes Standards by 2011.

Housing: Empty Property

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 791W, on housing: empty property, how many empty dwellings there were in each Government Office region in England in October 2005. [222886]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the total number of empty dwellings in England and each Government office region at 9 October 2005.

Region	*Empty dwellings as at 9 October 2005*
North East	47,571
North West	132,443
Yorkshire and the Humberside	85,660
East Midlands	63,195
West Midlands	77,391
East of England	66,783
London	85,550
South East	100,443
South West	64,158
England	723,194

Source:
Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns submitted by local authorities to Communities and Local Government

The figures in the table are for all empty homes. The following table shows levels of dwellings which have been empty for more than six months. It is sometimes more appropriate to look at trends in long-term vacancies since they are ones that should be tackled. Those dwellings vacant for less than six months are more likely to be empty for short period following a sale and are a characteristic of the housing market.

Number of long-term vacancies (all tenures vacant for more than six months)

	November			*October*		
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	23,210	22,891	21,599	21,473	21,886	21,583
North West	71,819	75,760	68,594	68,275	71,811	73,047
Yorkshire and Humber	44,039	40,704	36,550	35,715	36,336	40,084
East Midlands	25,883	28,641	26,219	27,925	27,763	27,306
West Midlands	37,238	39,295	40,167	35,703	35,910	34,833
East of England	28,418	27,075	25,020	25,175	25,039	24,704
London	66,407	54,229	42,600	40,081	40,142	36,534
South East	48,163	43,797	35,459	36,022	34,278	34,226
South West	30,412	28,080	22,434	23,247	25,276	21,732
England	375,589	360,472	318,642	313,616	318,441	314,049

Source:
Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns submitted by local authorities to Communities and Local Government

Housing: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects those affected by recent floods to be able to return to their homes. [224194]

John Healey: An assessment of the impact of the recent flooding has found that as at 12 September 2008 around 1,827 households were affected by the recent floods, with water entering habitable areas. It is too early to assess how many households were displaced or when they are likely to return to their homes.

Housing: Greater London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the average house price in London in *(a)* April 2006, *(b)* April 2007 and *(c)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [222661]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government calculate regional monthly mix-adjusted average purchase prices of domestic dwellings based on data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey. These are available back to February 2002 on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table592.xls.

For London this gives mix-adjusted average house prices as:

	Average house prices (£)
(a) April 2006	277,235
(b) April 2007	318,976
(c) July 2008	343,182

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what total spending was on *(a)* newly built and *(b)* renovated social housing in each of the last 20 years at constant 2008 prices, broken down by (i) registered social landlords, (ii) local authorities and (iii) other providers; and if she will make a statement. [221777]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department is not able to provide figures on newly built and renovated social housing dating back 20 years, nor is it able to provide figures for other providers. For local authorities, reliable statistics were first collected from 2001, initially through the Housing Investment Programme (HIP) and subsequently through the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) from 2002. The figures in tables 1 and 2 are published and available via the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/dataforms/357553/

Table 1: Total local authority spend on renovation[1] work since 2001 at 2008 prices[2]—England

	£ billion
2000-01	1.9
2001-02	2.1
2002-03	2.3
2003-04	2.5
2004-05	2.8
2005-06	3.2
2006-07	3.1

[1] Renovation work includes works of a capital nature: installation, replacement or major repair.
[2] Nominal figures adjusted to 2008 prices using HM Treasury GDP index—last updated 27 June 2008.
Sources:
Figures for 2002-07 from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA). 2000 figures from the BPSA's predecessor—the Housing Investment Programme. Figures include those authorities which have chosen to retain their housing stock and also arms length management organisations (ALMO's)

Table 2: Total local authority spend on new build/acquisitions[1] since 2001 at 2008 prices[2]—England

	£ million
2000-01	26.0
2001-02	14.3
2002-03	27.7
2003-04	21.1
2004-05	21.1
2005-06	19.0
2006-07	21.9

[1] Includes both General and Special Needs housing.
[2] Nominal figures adjusted to 2008 prices using HM Treasury GDP index—last updated 27 June 2008.
Note:
LSVT = Large Scale Voluntary Transfer. One of the three options set out by Government for those authorities that need extra funding to meet the required Decent Homes standard. LSVT aims to deliver improved performance and services ensuring the extra money is spent cost effectively. The council is free to focus on more strategic housing functions.
Sources:
Figures for 2002-07 from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA). 2001 figures from the BPSA's predecessor—the Housing Investment Plan. Figures include those authorities which have chosen to retain their housing stock and also arms length management organisations (ALMO's)

The Global Accounts of Housing Associations, published by the Housing Corporation (the regulator of housing associations in England) provides equivalent figures for major repairs of registered social landlords. These costs relate to works similar to renovation works in the local authority sector. These are displayed in table 3:

Table 3: Total registered social landlord spend on major repairs between 2001 at 2008 prices[1,2]

							£ million
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Revenue major repair	544	530	621	750	929	1,082	1,074
Capitalised major repair	n/a	n/a	n/a	385	658	784	909
Total	544	530	621	1,135	1,586	1,867	1,983

[1] Nominal figures adjusted to 2008 prices using HM Treasury GDP index—last updated 27 June 2008.
[2] 2007 Global Accounts differ from predecessors as returns are based on associations with >1,000 stock. Between 2004 and 2006 associations with >250 stock were included for reporting purposes.
Note:
Prior to 2004 the Housing Corporation did not collect figures relating to capitalised major repairs.
Source:
Housing Corporation's Global Accounts as at 1 March each year.

Investment in the provision of new social rented housing through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme is shown in the following table:

Table 4: Investment in the provision of new social rented housing at today's prices[1,2]

	£ million
2000-01	695.1
2001-02	762.1
2002-03	869.7
2003-04	1,299.4
2004-05	1,133.8
2005-06	986.4
2006-07	1,474.7

[1] Nominal figures adjusted to 2008 prices using HM Treasury GDP index—last updated 27 June 2008.
[2] Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme
Note:
These figures include spend on both new build and acquisition and refurbishment of stock.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what access the Valuation Office Agency has to the National Register of Social Housing. [222569]

John Healey: None.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what property attributes the National Register of Social Housing will collect in 2008-09. [222718]

Mr. Iain Wright: The current priority is to collect the property attributes required to replace existing Housing Corporation and Communities and Local Government forms. This includes ownership, size, type and age of property, energy efficiency, decent homes standard, rent, service charges, tenure and vacancy information; and for newly developed housing the funding sources. Information on NROSH can be found on the Department's website at

www.communities.gov.uk/nationalregisterofsocialhousing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much has been allocated to support the Rent to Homebuy scheme; and over what period the allocation has been made; [222913]

(2) what target she has set for the number of households to benefit from the Rent to Homebuy pilot scheme; and over what period the pilot will be assessed. [222914]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Rent to Homebuy scheme was announced on the 16 July as a pilot which is to run for the remainder of the Housing Corporation's 2008-09 bidding round for the Affordable Housing Programme and will then be evaluated. The amount funded will depend upon the number of bids brought forward which satisfy the Housing Corporation's criteria. £6 million has been allocated to-date for 199 units and the Housing Corporation expect to allocate more funding as suitable bids are brought forward.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the National Register of Social Housing will including property attributes from shared ownership dwellings. [224503]

Mr. Iain Wright: Yes.

Housing: Offenders

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she gives to local authorities on consulting local residents who live in the vicinity of homes used to house people who *(a)* have been charged with criminal acts and are awaiting a court hearing, *(b)* have served time in prison and have recently been released and *(c)* behave disruptively; and if she will make a statement. [221774]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not give any specific guidance to local authorities on these matters. There would not normally be any need for such consultations unless an application for planning permission had been made in relation to the homes. Local planning authorities determine in the first instance whether planning permission is required, taking into account individual circumstances. This might occur if the occupation of a dwelling house involved a material change of use for which planning permission was considered necessary.

Housing: Planning Permission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 955W, on housing: planning permission, what the name was of each respondent to the consultation; [222844]

(2) if she will place in the Library each response to the consultation. [222845]

Mr. Iain Wright: Annex 1 of the document I referred to in my previous answer contains a list of the names of the individuals or organisations that responded to the consultation. The document is available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/householderpermitted

A copy of each response will be placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the availability of qualified contractors to undertake urgent repair work required following the recent flooding in England. [224195]

John Healey: I met with the Association of British Insurers on the 10 September 2008 and they assured me that at this stage they are confident there are sufficient resources available in the construction industry to deal with repairs to homes affected by the recent floods.

Housing: Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of *(a)* social housing and *(b)* private housing were completed in Slough in each year since 1997. [222264]

Mr. Iain Wright: The figures requested are tabulated as follows.

	Social housing new build completions[1]	Private enterprise new build completions
1997-98	202	316
1998-99	11	341
1999-2000	37	449
2000-01	257	660
2001-02	67	442
2002-03	83	449
2003-04	32	239
2004-05	123	469
2005-06	193	329
2006-07	43	359
2007-08	[1]33	479

[1] Figures for social housing new build completions are only available until 2006-07, so the 2007-08 figure is estimated.

Source:

Social Housing completion figures are Social Rent New Build figures from the Housing Corporation Investment Management System (IMS) and HSSA returns submitted to CLG by Local Authorities.

Private Enterprise completion figures are from quarterly P2 returns submitted to CLG by local authorities and from the National House Building Council (NHBC). Figures do not include estimates for missing returns.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in Slough have been improved under the Decent Homes programme in each year of the programme; and how many require improvement. [222265]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department is unable to provide figures for all tenures relating to the homes improved and homes requiring improvement under the Decent Homes programme in Slough as these are not collected at a local level.

For local authority properties improved the table below sets out the number of local authority properties in Slough that have received capital investment since 2001-02. This will include homes where work has been carried out that is not included in the Decent Homes programme.

Programme of work on HRA stock (capital type installation, replacement or major repairs)

	Slough (£000)
2000-01	n/a[1]
2001-02	1,752
2002-03	2,333
2003-04	2,029
2004-05	1,129
2005-06	1,500
2006-07	1,439

[1] Figures are as recorded by local authorities. The figure reported by Slough in 2001 is not included as it is not consistent with the data elsewhere in the 2001 return and in subsequent years.

Source:

Local authority figures from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) which includes retention authorities and arms length management organisations (ALMO's).

Through the annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return, Communities and Local Government collected information on private sector dwellings for vulnerable people that received assistance to become decent for the first time in 2006-07. The figure for Slough in that year was 765.

For homes that need improvement under the Decent Homes programme the latest figures state that the number of properties requiring improvement across the social sector in Slough as at 1 April 2007 was 4,154 (3,935 owned by the local authority and 219 owned by Registered Social Landlords).

Housing: Standards

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* the South East and *(c)* England have been improved to the Decent Homes standard in each year since 2001. [221160]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information specific to the number of homes which have been improved to the Decent Homes Standard is not collected by the Department. The main indicator used to monitor progress towards the Decent Homes target in 2010 is the reduction in non-decent homes. The Department collects statistics on non-decent social sector local authority (LA) homes through the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) annual return.

These data are published by Communities and Local Government and can be obtained from the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/dataforms/357553/databyregion/

For national information and monitoring of progress the key source is the English House Condition Survey (EHCS)—a dwelling-based survey which provides annual updates on the number of non-decent homes in England overall. The survey includes figures on all tenures. The latest published figures available are from 2006 and can be accessed here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingsurveys/englishhousecondition/ehcsreports/

Local and regional figures from the BPSA, alongside national social sector figures from the EHCS, are provided in table 1 as follows:

Table 1: Number of local authority owned non-decent dwellings by year

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Local authority							
Slough	3,721	n/a	3,242	3,114	3,500	3,832	3,935
Region							
South East	n/a	n/a	74,578	81,083	68,232	59,296	49,074
National							
England	1,174,000	—	975,000	816,000	729,000	695,000	—

Notes:

1. Local authority and regional net figures include non decent dwelling losses from acquisitions, right to buy, partial transfers and demolitions.
2. Regional figures for 2001 and 2002 not available due to missing values in the data.
3. There are no adjustments for missing values. There were two authorities that did not return a figure in 2003 and there was one missing return in both 2006 and 2007.

Sources:

1. Local authority and aggregated regional figures from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) which includes retention authorities and arm's length management organisations (ALMOs).
2. National figures from the English House Condition Survey (EHCS) are rounded to the nearest thousand. Latest figures are for 2006. The survey was not conducted in 2002.

Similarly, information specific to the number of registered social landlord (RSL) homes which have been improved to the Decent Homes Standard is not collected by the Housing Corporation.

Equivalent local and regional figures for non-decent social housing owned by RSLs are displayed in table 2 as follows. These figures are published and available on the Housing Corporation's website:

http://www.rsrsurvey.co.uk/

As in table 1, national figures are provided from the EHCS.

Table 2: Number of registered social landlord owned non-decent dwellings by year

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Local authority							
Slough	—	—	—	—	359	390	219
Region							
South East	—	—	—	—	37,924	30,478	24,538
National							
England	472,000	—	467,000	437,000	433,000	436,000	—

Notes:
1. Local authority and regional net RSL figures take in to account non-decent stock losses through acquisitions, sales, disposals and demolitions.
2. The stock for which the number of Decent Homes failures is reported is general needs, supported housing, and housing for older people stock owned by the RSL.
3. Local authority-level RSL and regional RSL net figures take into account acquisitions, sales, disposals and demolitions.

Sources:
1. RSL figures by local authority and aggregated RSL regional figures from the Housing Corporation's Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as at 31 March each year. Information on Decent Homes Standard failures has only been collected at a local authority level since 2005.
2. National figures from the English House Condition Survey (EHCS) are rounded to the nearest thousand. Latest figures are for 2006. The survey was not conducted in 2002.

The national English House Condition Survey is the only data source available to the Department that provides estimates of non-decency across all tenures. These figures are shown in table 3 as follows:

Table 3: Number of non-decent dwellings across all tenures by year

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
National							
England	7,063,000	—	6,717,000	6,312,000	5,987,000	5,890,000	—

Source:
National figures from the English House Condition Survey (EHCS) are rounded to the nearest thousand. Latest figures are for 2006. The survey was not conducted in 2002.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 771W, on housing: standards, if she will place in the Library copies of each revised business plan for each pathfinder area. [222816]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 584W. Copies of the business plans and funding agreements are being deposited in the Library of the House.

Housing: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to increase the provision of affordable housing in the West Midlands. [222366]

Mr. Iain Wright: The publication of the Government's "Sustainable Communities: building for the future" in 2003 set out a programme of actions, one of which was the establishment of Regional Housing Boards (RHBs) in each of the regions.

RHBs were given the role of developing Regional Housing Strategies; firstly to identify regional strategic housing priorities, and secondly to develop proposals to Ministers for the allocation of the Government's housing capital funding from the Regional Housing Pot.

The West Midlands RHB developed its first Strategy in 2005, and this identified the need for affordable housing as a key regional priority, particularly in the south and west of the region.

Based on the priorities identified in the West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy the RHB developed its recommendations for Ministers to determine regional funding allocations for the periods 2004-06 and 2006-08. In those four years (2004-08) just over half of the Regional Housing Pot (£377 million) was allocated to help deliver 8,500 new affordable homes, a number of these within the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder areas of Urban Living (parts of Birmingham and Sandwell) and Renew North Staffordshire.

In October 2007 the Government announced its overall funding for housing capital allocations for 2008-11. The west midlands was allocated £206 million for 2008-09 (18 per cent., more than 2007-08); £228 million for 2009-10 (11 per cent., higher than 2008-09) and £245 million for 2010-11 (7 per cent., higher than 2009-10), making a three year total of £679 million.

The RHB further proposed to increase the proportion of the allocation from the 2008-11 Regional Housing Pot for delivery of affordable housing, recommending that over two-thirds (£467 million) should be allocated to the region's National Affordable Housing Programme in order to support delivery of an additional 10,800 affordable homes.

Alongside this, during the early part of 2008, the Government office west midlands negotiated Local Area Agreements (LAA) with the 14 "upper tier" west midlands local authorities. A key target area was "number of affordable homes" and 12 of the 14 authorities identified this as a key priority for their areas. The Government office west midlands negotiated targets with those local authorities to deliver overall 10,880 affordable homes across the west midlands during the period 2008-11.

On 2 September, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced a package of measures to meet current challenges in the housing market. This announcement included a measure to bring forward £400 million expenditure (from 2010-11 to 2008-10) to enable social housing providers to deliver 5,500 more homes nationally over the coming 18 months.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest timetable is for the commencement and conclusion of the review of the Infrastructure Planning Commission's role in relation to the referral of decisions to the Secretary of State. [222484]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1444W. We expect the Infrastructure Planning Commission to begin determining applications in 2010. The review will take place two years after the Infrastructure Planning Commission has accepted its first application for consideration. It will be concluded as soon as reasonably practicable.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the operational start date for the Infrastructure Planning Commission is. [222676]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1444W.

INTERACT II Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role her Department has in the INTERACT II programme. [222915]

Mr. Khan: My Department's role with the INTERACT II programme is a policy and co-ordination role through leading the UK representation on working groups, overseeing its preparation and agreeing the priorities and work programme. It is the same role it holds for all INTERREG programmes.

Local Authorities: Plants

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the sum spent by local authorities in England on ornamental plants and seeds in the most recent year for which figures are available. [222497]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average budget of a local authority in England was in the latest period for which figures are available. [222546]

John Healey: The total budgeted revenue expenditure by local authorities in England in 2008-09 is £103.136 billion and there were 478 local authorities in England during 2008-09. The average budgeted revenue expenditure (arithmetic mean) of a local authority for 2008-09 is therefore £215.8 million, although the average will vary considerably between authorities because the range of responsibilities varies significantly between classes of authority.

The expenditure figure is derived from the Revenue Account (RA) budget returns submitted to Communities and Local Government.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 31-32WS, on local government, what the timetable is for the distribution of the remaining funding to local authorities. [222893]

John Healey: My written ministerial statement of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 47WS, said that, given the greater complexity, uncertainty, and delay caused by legal action, it would be necessary to retain a portion of the Year 3 funding as a contingency in the final year of the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme. My written ministerial statement of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 56-57WS, indicated that a further announcement about the distribution of the remaining funding would be made in due course and that the funding would be allocated to local authorities in full, in line with the policy purposes for which LABGI was designed. I also said that the exact methodology would be confirmed once any uncertainty associated with legal challenges has been resolved. That uncertainty remains.

Local Government: Gloucestershire

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on unitary restructuring of local government in Gloucestershire from hon. Members representing the Labour Party. [222918]

John Healey: We have no record of any such representations.

Local Government: Lowestoft

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on local identities of moving Lowestoft from Suffolk into Norfolk as part of the latest round of unitary restructuring. [222575]

John Healey: The Secretary of State has made no such assessment. We have requested the independent boundary committee to advise by 31 December 2008 on certain matters relating to proposals for unitary local government in Norwich, Ipswich and the surrounding county areas. There is no role for Government at this stage.

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 349W, on local government: pensions, whether her Department holds the 2007 actuarial valuation reports for each local authority pension fund in *(a)* physical and *(b)* electronic form. [222880]

John Healey: Copies of the reports relating to the 2007 Local Government Pension Scheme valuation exercise have been submitted to the Department, as required by the scheme's regulations, in electronic and physical form. Details of individual fund valuations may be requested directly from each scheme pension fund administering authority.

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the public sector deficit of local government pensions in England and Wales is. [224506]

John Healey: At 31 March 2007, actuarial valuation of each of the 89 local authority pension funds which comprise the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales, total assets represented 83 per cent. of its total accrued liabilities. The valuation exercise also established that the contribution rates for participating employers for the triennial period ending 31 March 2011 were certified by the fund's actuaries as being sufficient to ensure the ongoing solvency of scheme's funds.

Local Government: Political Impartiality

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to change the Widdecombe rules on the participation of senior officers in party political activity. [222566]

John Healey: As stated in the local government White Paper, "Communities in control: Real people, real power", we will amend the Widdicombe rules, so that only the most senior officials such as chief executives and chief planning officers continue to be barred from political aetivity along with other politically sensitive posts.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for local authorities to review and amend their executive structures according to the new executive models available to local authorities. [222568]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1427W. In advance of the move to a new executive model, local authorities must pass a resolution to make the change during the permitted resolution periods shown for each type of local authority in the following table.

Type of local authority	*Permitted resolution period*
County	The period ending with 31 December 2008
Metropolitan district	The period ending with 31 December 2009
London borough	The period ending with 31 December 2009
Non-metropolitan district	The period ending with 31 December 2010

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for further unitary restructuring of local government. [222917]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 586W, and to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 779W.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of the changes made in response to the Local Government Efficiency Review led by Sir Peter Gershon on efficiency and practice in local government.[1] [221755]

John Healey: During the 2004 Spending Review (SR04) period, councils were required to achieve 2.5 per cent. per annum efficiency gains, at least half of which had to be cashable (i.e. release cash resources that could be reallocated to meet local priorities or hold down council tax). This was in line with the efficiency target for the whole public sector and, for councils, amounted to an expectation for £3.0 billion gains by the end of 2007-08.

Councils have reported achievement of efficiency gains significantly ahead of this target for the SR04 period, as shown in the following table:

Cumulative efficiency gains achieved by English councils between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2008

£ million

Activity	*Total gains*	*Of which: cashable*
Service sectors		
Adult social services	786	612
Social housing	339	309

1. *[Official Report, 20 October 2008, Vol. 481, c. 2MC.]*

Cumulative efficiency gains achieved by English councils between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2008

Activity	*Total gains*	*£ million Of which, cashable*
Environmental services	357	279
Children's services	322	269
Local transport	297	244
Non-school education	205	170
Culture and sport	152	110
Supporting People	150	111
Homelessness	61	44
Cross-cutting workstreams		
Corporate services	666	579
Procurement	397	346
Productive time	205	73
Transactions	141	82
Miscellaneous	248	219
Total	4,345	3,447

The £3.447 billion cashable efficiency gains achieved by councils represent a saving worth £129 for the average Band D council tax property.

Cuts in services do not count towards the figures reported above and, throughout the SR04 period, the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment has shown an upward trajectory for the scores awarded. In 2005, 73 per cent. of councils obtained the top scores (three or four stars) in CPA, and 57 per cent. were identified as performing "above or well above minimum requirements" in the Use of Resources assessment. By 2007, those proportions had risen to 83 per cent. and 85 per cent. respectively.

To support councils in delivering these efficiencies, the Department set up a network of Regional Centres of Excellence (RCEs) which shared good practice and funded projects of importance to the region. The RCEs adopted a common system for measuring the benefits from the projects they funded and on average each pound invested released £5 of benefits to the public sector.

Councils are also working with each other, and other parts of the public sector, to a much greater extent. By 2007, 54 per cent. were involved in joint commissioning of services (excluding health and social care)—up from 31 per cent. in 2004—and 38 per cent. shared a procurement function with another council.

There are still opportunities for further efficiencies in local government, through the widespread adoption of better procurement, process improvement, collaboration and asset management, and a further £4.9 billion cash-releasing council efficiencies over the period from 2008-09 to 2010-11 is expected. The achievement of this target will rely on the strong foundation that councils have laid and will be supported by £384 million we are making available to support improvement, efficiency and innovation in local government.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what performance targets or indicators the Standard Board sets for local authority monitoring officers; and whether these are incorporated into the National Indicator set. [222540]

John Healey: While the Standards Board has given guidance about how local authority's standard committees and monitoring officers should fulfil their roles in relation to members' conduct, it does not set performance targets or indicators for local authority monitoring officers.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what obligations local authorities are under to provide performance management information to the Standards Board. [222596]

John Healey: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires local authorities to provide to the Standards Board for England certain information relating to the exercise of functions undertaken by the standards committee or monitoring officer of a local authority.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on identifying and reporting annual efficiency gains. [222715]

John Healey: The Department has issued guidance for councils on measuring and reporting efficiency gains since 2005. Based on the advice of the Measurement Taskforce (a group formed of representatives from both local and central government), this guidance has been regularly updated to ensure it remains relevant and practical. The current version may be accessed at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/efficiencybetter/deliveringefficiency/efficiencyinformation/

The Department has also produced toolkits for measuring efficiency gains in the specific areas of social housing, the Supporting People programme, corporate services, transactions, procurement and productive time. These are available online at:

http://www.rce.gov.uk/rce/core/page.do?pageId=10329

London Fire Brigade: Procurement

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what systems are operated by the fire control network in London; what plans there are for the London Fire Service to procure *(a)* an automatic vehicle relocation system, *(b)* satellite navigation, *(c)* an integrated geographic information system and *(d)* premise-based gazetteer mobilising at premises level; and if she will make a statement. [222949]

Mr. Khan: London Fire Brigade is currently operating the following systems; status messaging, enhanced Information Service for Emergency Calls (EISEC) and Automatic Location Service for Emergency Calls (ALSEC).

The FiReControl Project will be equipping London with a number of new capabilities as part of over £360 million of investment in England's Fire and Rescue Services. The provision of an automatic vehicle location system, satellite navigation, geographic information system and the full premise based gazetteer is part of the FiReControl project to create a resilient national network of control centres.

Mayor of London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, which individuals and organisations responded to her Department's consultation on the extension of the Mayor of London's powers and responsibilities; and if she will publish a summary of those responses. [222656]

Mr. Iain Wright: A summary of the responses was published on the Government Office for London website in March 2008, at http://www.gos.gov.uk/gol/Planning/624901/?a=42496. See the final link on that page, "Summary of responses to consultation on draft Mayor of London Order and draft Circular", which lists the organisations that responded and their responses. Question 4 of the consultation concerned proposed amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 to give the Mayor of London power to direct changes to local development schemes. This power is now included in the 2008 Regulations. I have placed a copy of the consultation responses in the House of Commons Library.

Millennium Dome

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of the Millennium Dome to public funds *(a)* was in 2007-08 and *(b)* is expected to be in 2008-09; and how much the public purse received from the New Millennium Experience Company Limited in each year since the inception of the Dome. [222828]

Mr. Iain Wright: English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency, were responsible for the costs for staff and the maintenance and management of the millennium dome from July 2001 until the opening of the arena in June 2007. During the 2007-08 financial year the amount spent by English Partnerships was £205,000. English Partnerships handed over full responsibility for the dome (now the O_2) to Anschutz Entertainment Group in June 2007, when the arena inside the former millennium dome was completed. No further costs were incurred by EP in 2008-09, therefore the amount spent from public funds in 2008-09 is nil.

The New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC) was the company set up to run the millennium exhibition in the dome. Following the end of the exhibition, it was placed in voluntary, solvent liquidation in December 2001. The public purse did not receive any money from the New Millennium Experience Company Limited.

However, because of the structure of the deal for the continued regeneration of the site, the Government expects a substantial return from the development of the land around the O_2 and will also receive a share of the profits arising from the successful operation of the O_2.

Ministerial Corrections

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 63WS, on a correction to a parliamentary Question, in what circumstances her Department opts to correct an answer given to a parliamentary Question by means of *(a)* a Written Ministerial Statement and *(b)* a Ministerial Correction. [222889]

Mr. Khan: Corrections to answers given to parliamentary questions are made in accordance with the guidance issued to Departments by my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 56WS.

The written ministerial statement was issued on 20 June 2008 in respect of question 165558 given the length of time that had elapsed since the question was first answered (18 December 2007).

Mortgages: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has made an estimate of the number of families which are more than three months in arrears with mortgage payments in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland. [223916]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on mortgages which are more than three months in arrears with payments is only available for the United Kingdom as a whole and is collected independently by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. This data are available on their website at http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/filegrab/2AP1.xls?ref=2750.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of housing repossessions; and if she will make a statement. [222395]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 2 September, the Government set out a package of measures to help the housing market, including a £200 million mortgage rescue scheme, which will help up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable households facing repossession over the next two years.

In addition, the Government recently strengthened the £560 million advice network for home owners at risk of repossession, by extending free legal representation at county courts, expanding the National Housing Advice Service to provide a new comprehensive debt advice service, and increasing specialist training for citizens advice bureau staff and local authorities on debt advice.

Multi Area Agreements: Urban Areas

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the speech by the Minister for Local Government to the Local Government Association conference on 2 July 2008, why the introduction of multi-area agreements is not a policy for cities. [222574]

John Healey: Any group of two or more top-tier (county) or unitary local authorities in England can enter a multi-area agreement (MAA). An MAA is a voluntary agreement between two or more top-tier or unitary local authorities, their partners (including district

councils) and Government to achieve certain collective targets to improve economic prosperity in their local area. The first seven MAAs were signed in July and include a wide representation of urban and rural areas and different tiers of Government from across the English regions.

Multiple Occupation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a residential house may be used as a house of multiple occupation involving five or more residents without planning permission. [221770]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) is intended to be a deregulatory mechanism which removes the need for planning permission between certain specified uses by grouping into classes land uses which have similar implications for local amenity. The Use Classes Order defines dwelling houses under the C3 use class as houses used by a single person, any number of persons living together as a family, or by no more than six people living together as a single household.

HMOs do not fall within any of the specified use classes, and therefore are "sui generis" (of its own kind, unique) in terms of use. Planning permission is needed for a change of use to or from a sui generis use. Therefore, planning permission would be needed for the proposed change of use of a private dwelling to a HMO, or if such is deemed to have occurred.

The current definition of a dwelling house implies that up to six people living together as a single household should not, prima facie, be considered as a HMO. However local planning authorities may determine individual cases on the basis of "fact and degree" and may decide that dwellings with fewer than six people living together other than as a single household constitute a HMO.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have to enter private properties which are subject to *(a)* discretionary and *(b)* mandatory licensing of houses of multiple occupation for inspection purposes; and what are the penalties for refusing or obstructing entry. [224486]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities have the power under sections 239 and 240 of the Housing Act 2004 to enter and inspect private properties which are subject to either discretionary or mandatory HMO licensing. The penalty for obstructing entry is a criminal offence subject to a maximum fine of £2,500.

Multiple Occupation: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the number of unlicensed houses of multiple occupation used by Castle Point Borough Council within Castle Point *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [222459]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect or hold information specifically on the number of unlicensed houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). However, the Department does collect information on privately rented licensed HMOs through the Register of Licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation. As at 14 August 2008, Castle Point reported no applications for licensing of privately rented HMOs on their return for the ROLHMO data collection.

New Deal For Communities

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on the New Deal for Communities in each year since it was established; and what the budget is for each of the next three years. [222561]

John Healey: New Deal for Communities Programme is a 10 year programme worth over a total of £2 billion to help regenerate 39 deprived communities across England.

Between 2000-01 and 2006-07 the New Deal for Communities Programme spent a total of £1.3 billion[1]. In 2007-08 over £250 million was allocated to the NDC programme but amounts spent by NDCs have not yet been confirmed through audit. As we announced on 1 July, this year we have allocated over £240 million. Indicative allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 total over £255 million. These amounts include monies for programme support, such as evaluation.

[1] Figures for spend are not final as audited records for a small number of NDCs are still to be completed.

	Funding (£)
2000-01	21,860,854
2001-02	78,133,084
2002-03	173,630,904
2003-04	242,274,026
2004-05	282,411,724
2005-06	277,620,369
2006-07	255,225,558
2007-08	252,974,000
2008-09	242,240,000
2009-10	191,823,000
2010-2011	65,857,000
Total	2,084,050,519

Non-domestic Rates

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed minimum rateable value threshold for liability for business rate supplements will be increased in 2010 following the business rates revaluation to reflect higher average rateable values. [222545]

John Healey: Business rate supplements: a White Paper, published in October 2007, set out the Government's intention to exempt non-domestic properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less, across England, from paying the supplement.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of changes in business rates on rates of business closures. [222855]

John Healey: No such assessment has been made.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the increase in *(a)* aggregate rateable values and *(b)* annual revenue from the Valuation Office Agency's decision to backdate new business rate revaluations of port businesses at designated ports. [224329]

John Healey: The estimated effect of the review of large statutory ports in England is expected to be an increase in the number of occupations separately assessed for business rates at 1 April 2005 from 1,600 to 2,000, with an increase in the aggregate rateable value from £181 million to approximately £200 million. Individual ratepayers have the right of appeal against the notices served if they believe the facts or other information on which the assessments are based are incorrect.

No estimates of revenue have been made, as calculation of liability—reflecting any reliefs that may be available—are matters for individual billing authorities.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Valuation Office Agency decided to revalue business properties in the Port of Hull; what back-dated changes to business rates have been made as a result; and if she will make a statement. [224331]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency formally advised the port operator that a change might be needed to the rating list for properties within the Port of Hull in May 2006. This is part of a review of the rating assessments within ports to ensure, following clarification from a major rating appeal in Southampton, that properties which should be separately assessed, rather than being included in the assessment for the port operator, are consistently and correctly treated. Details of revised valuations are available on the VOA's website.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 988W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, on what valuation grounds the Valuation Office Agency lost the rating challenge made by representatives of the Ministry of Justice; what assessment she has made of the likely implications of the judgment for other businesses of a similar nature; and if she will make a statement. [222843]

John Healey: The challenges were made on various grounds. In each case the valuation officer considered any changes to the physical state of the properties and their localities, the points raised on behalf of the Ministry of Justice and, as he was satisfied that revised rateable values were proper, entered them in the rating list. Each case was considered on its individual merits and there are no wider implications apparent.

Non-governmental Organisations

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings *(a)* the Minister for Local Government and *(b)* the Minister for Housing has had with (i) non-governmental environmental organisations and (ii) non-governmental business organisations since her appointment. [222743]

Mr. Iain Wright: Details of meetings between Ministers and outside interest groups are provided on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/

Official Hospitality

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 629W, on official hospitality: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, what the cost to the public purse of the then Deputy Prime Minister is on entertainment of the Chinese Ambassador at Mr. Cha's China Palace on 2 April 2004 was. [222894]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1090W.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans she has for future staffing levels in each case. [221864]

Mr. Iain Wright: For Communities and Local Government, there are in total 6.6 full-time equivalent staff working on the Olympics programme within the central department. Within the Housing Corporation, English Partnerships and the London Thames Gateway Delivery Corporation, work on London 2012 Olympics issues is carried out as they arise in the course of normal business. None of the posts due to be transferred from the Thames Gateway Executive to the Homes and Communities Agency work full time on this programme.

Within the figure of 6.6 full-time equivalents for Communities and Local Government, 1.5 full-time equivalent staff work on project management; two full-time equivalent staff work on legacy planning; one full-time equivalent works on project oversight and one full-time equivalent works on financial oversight. The additional 1.1 full-time equivalent comprises administrative staff (1) and a risk management consultant (0.1). There are no immediate plans for a change in staffing levels but future staffing levels will be kept under review.

Optimisa

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has commissioned from Andrew Irving Associates or its parent company Optimisa in the last 12 months; at what cost; and what contracts the firm has for ongoing research for her Department. [222621]

Mr. Khan: The Department has commissioned the following research from Andrew Irving Associates in the last 12 months:

		£
2007		
November	Fire safety for business—Holiday Accommodation Sector Quantitative Stage 1	12,000
December	Smoke Alarms Maintenance, awareness and attitudes	33,750
2008		
January	Fire safety for business—Holiday Accommodation Sector Stage 1	24,000
March	Sustainable Homes Telephone Survey	18,000
March	Fire safety for business—Holiday Accommodation Sector Stage 2	12,000
June	Eco Towns public attitudes	5,000
July	Local government Petitions	6,300
September	Smoke Alarms Maintenance, awareness and attitudes	33,750

There is a further stage of Smoke Alarm Maintenance research due to take place in October/November 2008. Beyond this, the Department has no contracts for ongoing research with Andrew Irving Associates.

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ordnance Survey plans to use hectares as a unit of measurement. [223952]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey has used hectares in internal operations since circa 1945, and as a published unit of measurement since 1969.

Ordnance Survey: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use Ordnance Survey makes of ACORN data from CACI Ltd. [222573]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey does not use ACORN data from CACI Ltd.

Parish Councils

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued on the role of the Local Government Ombudsman in oversight of the functions of parish councils; and if she will make a statement. [222587]

John Healey: The local government ombudsman has no remit in relation to parish councils, and we have not issued any guidance about the local government ombudsman's oversight of parish council functions.

Parish Councils: Council Tax

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 350W, on parish councils: council tax, whether her Department plans to estimate the average Band D parish council precept for 2008-09 in due course. [222881]

John Healey: Yes.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net income from parking for each local authority in England was in 1996-97. [223001]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the requested information on the gross and net income on parking services by each local authority in England in 1996-97. Aggregate 1996-97 information for England is published in "Local Government Financial Statistics No. 9: 1998" and the information is drawn from the Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the aggregate gross income from local authority parking services in England was in each year since 1996-97. [222879]

John Healey: Information on parking services by local authorities in England is published in Local Government Financial Statistics (LGFS) England.

Year of data	*LGFS issue (No/Year)*	*Annex*	*Table number*
1997-98	10: 1999	A	A1
1998-99	11: 2000	A	A1
1999-2000	12: 2001	A	A1
2000-01	13: 2002	C	C1b
2001-02	14: 2003	C	C1b
2002-03	15: 2004	C	C1b
2003-04	16: 2005	C	C1b
2004-05	17: 2007	C	C1c

Year of data	LGFS issue (No/Year)	Annex	Table number
2005-06	17: 2007	C	C1d
2006-07	18: 2008	C	C1b

These publications are in the Library of the House and editions from LGFS No 11: 2000 are also available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/index.htm.

Partner Organisations

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications to become partner organisations her Department has received in the last 12 months; and how many such applications have been accepted. [221804]

Mr. Khan: Assuming this is in reference to the previously proposed Strategic Partners programme, the Department received 215 applications. The decision not to proceed with the proposed programme meant that none of the applications were accepted.

My Department has consulted on a £7.5 million Empowerment Fund, the objective of which is to support a limited number of third sector organisations to achieve their goals, where the achievement of goals aligns with the objectives of the 'Communities in control: real people, real power' White Paper.

The draft prospectus anticipates around 20 organisations receiving funding. We will shortly publish a final prospectus inviting applications.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department will provide to partner organisations in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [221805]

Mr. Khan: In relation to third sector partner organisations, an Empowerment Fund of £7.5 million will be made available to provide strategic, stable and sector funding over the next three years.

Personal Records: Fraud

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what personal information the Audit Commission will be entitled to access as part of the National Fraud Initiative. [222810]

John Healey: Under provisions introduced by the Serious Crime Act 2007, the Audit Commission may, for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud, require:

(a) any body subject to audit or English best value authority, and

(b) any officer or member of such a body,

to provide the Commission with such data as it may reasonably require for the purpose of conducting data matching exercises. This includes personal data.

If the Commission thinks it appropriate to conduct a data matching exercise to assist in the prevention or detection of fraud using data held by other bodies (including personal data), the data may be disclosed to the Commission or a person acting on its behalf.

These new statutory powers extend the Audit Commission's National Fraud Initiative and build on the results it has achieved to date. The 2006-07 exercise reported that a record £140 million in fraud and overpayment has been detected. This brings the total for NFI to around £450 million in fraud and overpayments since it started in 1996 and represents a 26 per cent. increase from £111 million detected in 2004-05.

Details of the personal data used in the National Fraud Initiative are published in advance of every exercise, and the data specification for the forthcoming exercise commencing in October this year can be found on the Commission's website at:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/dataspec/index.asp#dds

Planning

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the new edition of planning guidance PPS6 will be a draft version; and what the timetable is for publication and consultation. [222567]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our "Proposed Changes to Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres" were published on 10 July 2008. The proposals are in draft for consultation. The consultation period closed on 3 October 2008. A summary of consultation responses will be published by January 2009.

Planning Obligations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of using section 106 powers to levy an across-the-board planning obligation monetary charge on all household extensions. [216027]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities can tailor planning obligation policies to meet their local needs and circumstances within the framework of national planning policy (Circular 05/05). Local planning authorities must take the Secretary of State's policy into account and have reasons for departing from it.

The Government have recently announced new planning regulations affecting householder extensions through revisions to the General Permitted Development Order. This means that from 1 October 2008 the majority of homeowners no longer need to apply for planning permission when extending their existing homes.

As such, the use of section 106 powers to levy an across-the-board planning obligation monetary charge on all household extensions will not be possible, as most extensions will no longer require planning permission.

Planning: Appeals

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the introduction of local member review bodies to replace planning appeals by the Planning Inspectorate. [222591]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local Member Review Bodies are to be removed from the Bill following the submission of an amendment to this effect to the House of Lords at Committee Stage.

In her speech at the Second Reading of the Planning Bill in the other place, my hon. Friend Baroness Andrews said:

> "Part 9 also contains provision to set up local member review bodies to determine certain planning appeals instead of the Secretary of State as now. We have listened carefully to stakeholder views on this provision and concluded that, while it may bring some benefit, it risks distracting local authorities, particularly at a time when there is an urgent need for them to focus on strategic plans and issues. We therefore intend to drop this provision at Committee stage." (15 July 2008, *Official Report*, Second Reading debate, column 1164).

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 265W, on licensing laws, how many of the planning appeals concluded with the application for the premises *(a)* being refused and *(b)* being granted in whole or in part. [222958]

Mr. Iain Wright: During the 12 month period 1 June 2007 to 31 May 2008 the inspectorate considered 182 planning appeals in respect of public houses and wine bars. Of these 109 were dismissed and 73 were allowed, either whole or in part. Of the appeals allowed 57 were generally concerned with ancillary works to existing premises or their environs, 10 related to an extension in licensing hours and six to a change of use to form a public house or wine bar.

Planning: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2206W, on planning: South East, what her latest estimate is of the date upon which the South East Plan will be *(a)* adopted and *(b)* come into force as planning guidance. [224515]

Mr. Khan: The Secretary of State is aiming to adopt and publish the final version of the South East Plan as soon as practicable after considering the responses to the consultation which ends on 24 October. The exact timing will depend on the level and nature of the responses made to the Government's Proposed Changes to the draft. The final South East Plan will have statutory force on the date of adoption. In the meantime the Secretary of State would expect local authorities to attach a significant degree of weight to the emerging draft plan in their decision making.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2206W, on planning: South East, what steps have been made to enable digitally excluded households to respond to the latest consultation on the South East Plan. [224516]

Mr. Khan: The draft South East Plan Proposed Changes have been distributed throughout the region in accordance with statutory requirements. Copies and summaries, along with supporting documents have been sent to local councils and libraries, to Parish and Town Councils, the MPs and MEPs and to anyone who requested copies earlier in the process. They are also available on request from the Government Office for the South East.

Responses can be made either in writing or electronically. A standard response form is available and can be photocopied, and the Government will consider all comments received on the published Proposed Changes.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2206W, on planning: South East, if she will make it her policy that written representations made to the Government Office for the South East on the latest South East Plan consultation which do not cite specific paragraphs of the Plan will be considered fully as part of the consultation process. [224517]

Mr. Khan: The Secretary of State has a statutory duty to consider all responses made to the Government's own Proposed Changes to the draft South East Plan.

The Proposed Changes document makes it clear that comments should only be made where the Secretary of State has set out changes to the draft prepared by the South East of England Regional Assembly, as sections not proposed for change have already been subject to consultation and independent scrutiny.

While the Government will consider all views expressed on its published changes it would greatly assist the administrative process if respondents could quote the Proposed Change number when submitting comments.

Planning: Thames Gateway

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1241W, on planning: Thames Gateway, what each of the agreed detailed baselines are for the performance management of the Thames Gateway; and what monitoring process is in place of these baselines. [222876]

Mr. Iain Wright: The implementation planning baselines developed for the 2008-11 period were circulated to delivery partners for their confirmation of the position as at 9 May 2008 and issued in summary form to partners and other Government Departments on the 15 July 2008. These are therefore the definitive baseline for performance management of the range of bodies accountable for delivering projects and programmes in the Thames Gateway being funded by the Department.

Each accountable body provides a monthly progress update on spend, milestones and the achievement of outcomes, which is checked against the baseline. Every quarter, the Director General Regions and Communities, the Director of Delivery and the Director of Performance meet the Chief Executive of each Accountable Body to monitor progress made, review any necessary revisions to scope, and assess future targets.

Property Development: Green Belt

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1063W, on property development: green belt, how many dwellings were built on green belt land in each year since 1997 for which figures are available; and how many hectares of land were so developed in each year. [222873]

Mr. Iain Wright: Decisions about the use of land which is designated as green belt, or whether land should be designated as green belt, must be taken in accordance with the policy in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 on green belts. This policy has performed an important role in preventing urban sprawl and protecting the countryside for 50 years. There is a presumption against inappropriate development in green belt but the policy allows for some development there, such as to support agriculture or forestry or as limited infill in existing villages. Development that is inappropriate may be permitted only where the benefits clearly outweigh any harm to the green belt and where very special circumstances are also demonstrated. The Government remain committed to current green belt policy and have no intention of making fundamental changes to it.

In the period 1997-2006, an estimated 39,800 dwellings were built in the green belt (as designated in 2007). This accounts for less than 3 per cent. of all dwellings built in that period. In the period 1997-2004, which are the most recent robust figures available for the amount of land developed, around 1,750 hectares of the 2007 designated green belt were developed for residential use. This is around 5 per cent. of all land that changed to residential use in the same period.

The total area of green belt land in England in 2007 is 1,636,000 hectares. Taking into account the 47,300 hectares of green belt land which was designated as New Forest National Park in 2005 but which has equally strong policy protection, the total area of green belt in 2007 would show a net national increase of 33,000 hectares since 1997.

Property Development: Sittingbourne

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Sittingbourne Light Railway Group participated in the key stakeholder discussions which gave rise to the Cluster Study report for Milton Regis. [224499]

Mr. Khan: The purpose of the Green Cluster study was to pull together existing documentation and establish an overall shared vision for Milton Creek. Two stakeholder workshops were held in November and December of last year. These covered the Milton Creek and Faversham Creek study areas, and as such involved strategic partners only, such as Kent Wildlife Trust and Natural England. Sittingbourne Light Railway Group was not involved in this—the purpose of the workshops was essentially information-gathering. However, an action arising from the final report was to liaise further with Sittingbourne Light Railway Group, and this is now being progressed.

Public Participation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 269-70W, on public participation, what plans in relation to the production of a national survey of attitudes are *(a)* in development and *(b)* under consideration; and what the scope of the attitudes under assessment is. [222952]

Mr. Khan: There are currently no plans to produce a bespoke national survey of attitudes, but we are currently exploring other options for measuring attitudes towards violent extremism.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 269-70W, on public participation, what topics were covered by the questions on sensitive issues referred to in the Answer. [222975]

Mr. Khan: The questions on sensitive issues covered the topic of attitudes towards violent extremism.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 269-70W, on public participation, in what way the proposed national survey of attitudes differs from the Integrated Household Survey. [222976]

John Healey: The Integrated Household Survey, formerly known as the Continuous Population Survey, is carried out by the Office for National Statistics. It asks sampled households questions on topics such as demographics, housing, employment, identity, health and education.

There are no plans to add questions on violent extremism to the Integrated Household Survey, nor are there currently plans to produce a bespoke national survey of attitudes, although we are currently exploring other options for measuring attitudes towards violent extremism.

Public Telephones

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 351W, on public telephones, how many stand-alone telephone boxes in England were on the 1995 ratings list on 31 March 1997 or the nearest date for which figures are available. [222882]

John Healey: The number of separate assessments of stand-alone telephone boxes appearing in the 1995 local rating lists for England at March 2000 (the nearest to that requested) was 45. This figure is the number of assessments rather than individual boxes and some assessments will be in respect of clusters of telephone boxes. British Telecom, Mercury Communications and Kingston Communications (Hull) Ltd telephone boxes—which account for the majority of such structures seen on English streets—are not separately assessed from their networks, and therefore are not identifiable in the rating lists.

Recycling: Fire Prevention

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the fire risk from recycling sacks or boxes left near doorsteps in blocks of flats. [222644]

Mr. Khan: Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 it is for the 'Responsible Person' (usually the owner in these types of premises) to consider any fire risks associated with recycling boxes in and near the common parts of blocks flats, as a part of the fire risk assessment process.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1141W, on regional spatial strategies: green belt, whether it is the practice of *(a)* the Government Office for the Region and *(b)* planning inspectors to give informal valuations to local authorities on the soundness of a draft core strategy. [222890]

Mr. Iain Wright: Government offices aim to provide informal views on development plan documents (DPDs) prior to the examination and will seek to highlight any major concerns as risks to the soundness of the DPD. In commenting on work in progress, Government offices will make it clear that they are not in a position to test evidence in the way that an inspector would at an examination to establish whether the DPD is sound, particularly in terms of numbers contained within the DPD.

The Planning Inspectorate provides general advice to authorities about local development frameworks (LDFs), the nature of the examination process and the sort of evidence that is likely to be needed. This is published on the Planning Inspectorate website and can be accessed via the PPS12 Plan Making Manual published on the Planning Advisory Service website.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1141W, on regional spatial strategies: green belt, whether any core strategy development plan documents have been found unsound. [222891]

Mr. Iain Wright: Eight authorities have had their core strategy development plan documents found unsound. The authorities are Carrick district council; Chichester district council; Lichfield city council; Ryedale district council; Stafford borough council; Restormel borough council; Teignbridge district council and the Royal borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

A paper has been placed in the House Library which sets out in summary the reasons why each core strategy has been found unsound.

Regional Planning and Development: Electronic Government

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 329W, on regional planning and development: *electronic* government, what public funding each regional assembly provided to its respective regional equality and diversity partnership. [222842]

John Healey: Regional assemblies receive government grant as a contribution towards the implementation of the region's proposals which are described in a business plan. The Government produce business planning guidance which sets out the framework within which business plans can be agreed.

The annual reports of each assembly, including financial information and accounts, are published and can be accessed through the English Regions Network website.

http://www.ern.gov.uk/

The specific data requested are not routinely collected centrally.

Regional Planning and Development: Pollution Control

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect on carbon dioxide emissions of the spatial planning decisions in each regional spatial strategy. [222593]

Mr. Iain Wright: All RSS revisions are accompanied by a sustainability appraisal which considers the social, environmental and economic impacts of implementing the strategy. This includes assessment of air quality and climatic factors, which will impact upon carbon emissions.

Regional Planning And Development: South East

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the publication of *(a)* her proposed changes to the South East Regional Spatial Strategy and *(b)* the final version of the strategy. [222571]

Mr. Khan: The Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the South East Regional Spatial Strategy were published on 17 July 2008, consultation closes on 24 October 2008.

Government are aiming to publish the final version of the South East Plan by the end of the year.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to remove from the final version of the South East Plan any proposals to remove green belt protection where such proposals are not supported by the local planning authority. [222920]

Mr. Khan: Proposed Changes to the draft South East Plan are currently out for public consultation. Policies contained in this plan will be informed by the results of this ongoing consultation, and I am therefore not in a position to prejudice this process by commenting on the final form of the Plan at this stage.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of green belt land are scheduled for *(a)* review and *(b)* deletion in the most recent version of the South East Plan. [222922]

Mr. Iain Wright: The current version of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (2001) does not propose any green belt release. The Government are currently consulting on the new version of this strategy (known as the South East Plan). The draft contains proposals for selective review of green belt at Oxford and Guildford, and possibly to the South of Woking. The draft also states that boundary review will be required in the area of the former DERA site at Chertsey, as well as a small scale local review at Redhill/Reigate.

The draft also states that if green belt land is lost, consideration should be given to whether a broader review of green belt is needed with a particular view to determining whether additional land should be designated as green belt.

The exact area of land that will be reviewed, removed or added to the green belt will be assessed through these reviews, and as a consequence it is not possible to state the extent to which green belts will be amended.

Regional Planning And Development: South West

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, whether the Government Office for the South West has issued instructions to local councils to approach local land owners regarding developments in the Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Maltravers area. [224197]

Mr. Khan: The Government office for the south-west has not issued any instructions to local councils in respect of developments in the Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Matravers area.

Rented Housing: Antisocial Behaviour

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families with children have been evicted as a result of anti-social behaviour in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [221795]

Mr. Iain Wright: Social landlords (including local authorities and registered social landlords) can move to evict anti socially behaved families under Ground 2 of the Housing Act 1985 (for secure tenancies) and Ground 14 of the Housing Act 1988 (for assured tenancies), which both provides that social landlords can take possession action against tenants who have been guilty of conduct which has caused a nuisance or annoyance to their neighbours.

The Housing Corporation asks registered social landlords to provide numbers of evictions made during the year, broken down by reason, which includes rent arrears, antisocial behaviour, both or other. This information is not possible to break down at the local authority level, nor is it possible to identify families with children.

CLG has asked local authority landlords in England to submit data on the number of evictions they have made for 2005-06, 2006-07 and, most recently, 2007-08. This includes a breakdown by reason, specifically rent arrears, antisocial behaviour, or both, but it is not possible to identify families with children.

Repossession Orders

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals for measures to allow local authorities to raise finance against their assets to purchase homes *(a)* undergoing and *(b)* pending repossession by commercial creditors. [224188]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities can already borrow to support capital investment, such as purchasing shares in homes, provided that the interest on such debt is affordable, i.e. that the interest payments can be met from the council's income.

On 2 September, the Government set out a package of measures to help the housing market. This includes a £200 million mortgage rescue scheme which will bring together local authorities and registered social landlords to prevent repossession for up to 6,000 vulnerable home owners, over the next two years.

Right To Buy Scheme

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will adjust right-to-buy discounts to take account of changes in house prices since 1997. [222716]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have no plans to change the current maximum Right to Buy discount limits.

South East

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on services, broken down by type in *(a)* Dartford Borough, *(b)* Kent Thameside, *(c)* the Thames Gateway, *(d)* Kent County Council area and *(e)* the South East region in each of the last five years. [222453]

John Healey: Information is not held centrally in the form requested. The following information is available, however. Grants paid by Communities and Local Government, and predecessor Departments since 2003-04 were as follows:

To Dartford borough council

£ million

Programme	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Thames Gateway	—	—	4.696	0.160	1.757	6.613
Disabled facilities Grants	0.180	0.180	0.176	0.180	0.189	0.905
Homelessness Grants	0.021	0.021	0.036	0.036	0.056	0.170

To Dartford borough council

£ million

Programme	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Regional Housing Pot	—	1.151	1.196	—	—	2.347
Total Non-Formula Grants	0.201	1.352	6.104	0.376	2.002	10.035
Formula Grants[1]	6.520	6.183	6.372	7.004	7.146	33.225

To Kent county council

£ million

Programme	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Local Area Agreements	—	—	—	1.712	2.056	3.768
Thames Gateway	—	2.334	4.577	8.845	2.703	18.459
Supporting People	35.406	35.104	33.380	32.817	32.895	169.602
Disabled facilities Grant	2.786	3.685	3.145	3.575	4.294	17.485
Choice based Lettings	—	—	0.100	—	—	0.100
Private Finance Initiative	2.219	2.130	4.072	3.885	12.753	25.059
Growth Areas	0.405	1.924	1.309	1.452	9.885	14.975
European Regional Development Fund	0.605	1.379	1.574	1.496	1.383	6.437
Local Authority Business Growth Incentives	—	—	1.190	3.046	1.855	6.091
Total Non-Formula Grants	41.421	46.556	49.347	56.828	67.824	261.976
Formula Grants[1]	811.873	837.829	888.350	226.212	228.685	2,992.949

[1] Formula Grant comprises Revenue Support Grant and redistributed business rates. Prior to 2006-07 support for schools was paid through formula grant. In 2006-07 funding for schools transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant. The amount of formula grant for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 refers to the amount under the respective Amending Reports for those years.

Under the Thames Gateway programme, including amounts paid to Kent Thameside

£ million

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Thames Gateway Programme Expenditure (includes expenditure on grants under this programme to Dartford BC and Kent CC shown in aforementioned tables)	27.832	84.260	95.503	50.159	49.862	307.616
Of which, paid to Kent Thameside	—	0.166	1.386	0.564	0.565	2.681

Expenditure by function for the South Eastern region for all Government Departments is published annually in "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses". The latest edition was published in April 2008 (HC 489) and includes data for years up to and including 2007-08.

Sportsgrounds: Eltham

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the future of the Gaelic Sports Ground in Eltham following the High Court judgement to uphold her decision to reject the appeal from Novalong. [224301]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the light of the High Court judgment to uphold the Secretary of State's decision to dismiss Novalong Ltd.'s appeal, the future of the Gaelic Sports Ground in Eltham is a matter for the site's owners and the local planning authority, Greenwich borough council.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements her Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222178]

Mr. Khan: Individual stress risk assessments are completed by line managers and when appropriate, referrals made to our Occupational Health Provider. This allows reasonable adjustments to be made to workloads and the working environment if appropriate.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223027]

Mr. Khan: The central Department, including the Government Offices, spent £149,566 on taxi fares in the financial year ended 31 March 2008. The Planning Inspectorate, the Department's sole executive agency, does not record details of taxi fares separately from other travel costs incurred by their inspectors in attending site meetings and hearings and the cost of identifying this information would be disproportionate.

Tenants Rights

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statutory protection exists for people *(a)* living in poor conditions and *(b)* experiencing bullying or harassment from landlords, where those landlords are not registered social landlords. [222527]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) is a risk based evaluation tool to help local authorities identify and protect against potential risks and hazards to health and safety from any deficiencies identified in dwellings. It was introduced under the Housing Act 2004 and came into effect on 6 April 2006. It applies to residential properties in England.

The HHSRS assesses 29 categories of housing hazard, each hazard has a weighting which will help determine whether the property is rated as having category 1 (serious) or category 2 (other) hazards. Local authorities are responsible for the local implementation and enforcement of the HHSRS. If a property is found to contain serious hazards the local authority has a duty to take the most appropriate action in relation to the hazard.

There is a choice of enforcement options which are available to local authorities. These can involve emergency remedial action. The route followed is for the authority to decide, having regard to statutory enforcement guidance.

The Protection from Eviction Act 1977 gives local authorities the power to start legal proceedings for offences of harassment against tenants, and to prosecute if they believe an offence has been committed. In extreme cases of harassment and where the property is in poor condition, a local authority may take over the management of a house, by making it subject to a control order. A local authority also has compulsory purchase powers which it can use in certain circumstances where there is very bad harassment.

In certain circumstances a tenant may take legal action against his or her landlord for 'breach of the covenant for quiet enjoyment'. This is a term which every tenancy agreement contains (whether set out in words or not) that the tenant should be able to enjoy his or her home in peace as a basic human right. The tenant may also have grounds on other counts according to the nature of the case.

Under the Housing Act 1988, for cases of illegal eviction and of harassment which cause a tenant to leave his or her home, the court may award damages based on the profit made by a landlord from illegally evicting the tenant.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on people living in almshouses who were *(a)* living in poor conditions and *(b)* experiencing bullying or harassment from landlords in each of the last five years. [222528]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department's records suggest that four representations on these issues have been received during the last five years, one in 2006 and three in 2007, all from the same individual.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that social housing tenants who do not choose to opt into arms length management organisation schemes receive the same per capita subsidy from Government as those who do. [224187]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government required local authorities owning housing stock to undertake an options appraisal to determine how they could deliver the decent homes standard. For those authorities that considered they would not have sufficient resources to make their homes decent the Government provided three delivery options that would bring in extra resources: setting up an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO); transferring the ownership of the homes to a registered social landlord; and entering into a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract.

Thames Gateway

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the first anniversary of the Prime Minister's speech of 29 November 2007 to the Thames Gateway Forum giving an assessment of the progress made on the Thames Gateway policy, with particular reference to *(a)* land assembly for residential development, *(b)* planning permission granted for residential development, *(c)* housing construction starts, *(d)* use of brown field land, *(e)* regeneration, *(f)* measures to improve the skills base, *(g)* commercial and industrial development and *(h)* transport and communications. [222376]

Mr. Iain Wright: We plan to make a statement on progress at the time of this year's Thames Gateway Forum, on 26 and 27 November 2008.

Thames Gateway: Annual Reports

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1171W, on Thames Gateway: annual reports, when the hard copy version of the annual report was *(a)* delivered to her Department and *(b)* made available in the Vote Office; and if she will make a statement. [223784]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Thames Gateway Annual Report was delivered to the Department for Communities and Local Government on 14 July 2008. It was laid before the House and copies were made available in the Vote Office on 15 July 2008.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many property details relating to domestic dwellings were updated as a result of a CR10 review by the Valuation Office Agency in 2007-08. [222883]

John Healey: Individual property details are regularly updated as part of the VOA's statutory responsibility for maintaining accurate valuation lists. Exact numbers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Valuation Office Agency has to revise its Charter in relation to cold-calling following the recent ruling by the Adjudication Officer on inspecting premises without making a prior appointment. [223953]

John Healey: The Agency plans to revise its Charter to take account of the adjudicator's decision by 31 October 2008.

Valuation Office: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1689W, on Valuation Office: Geographical Information System, if she will list the mapping products and datasets that the Valuation Office Agency will use from Ordnance Survey for the Geographical Information System; [222643]

(2) what geographical data sources the Valuation Office Agency will purchase, obtain and repurpose to populate its proposed geographic information system. [222714]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The VOA will use the following mapping products from the Ordnance Survey in its Geographical Information System:

1:10,000 raster
1:50,000 raster
1:25,000 raster
Boundary Line
Code Point with Polygons
Master Map Topography layer
Address Layer 2.

Valuation Office: Maps

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 493W, on Valuation Office: maps, if she will place in the Library a CD-ROM containing the Valuation Office Agency's delineation of each locality in England. [222912]

John Healey: The data are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Zero Carbon Delivery Unit

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 503W, on the Zero Carbon Delivery Unit, if she will place in the Library a copy of the business plan for the unit. [222874]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has not yet received a copy of the business plan of the zero carbon hub. When received, I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library.

TREASURY

Aggregates Levy

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions his Department has had with the British Aggregates Association on the Opinion of 17 July of Advocate General Mengozzi of the European Court of Justice on the legality of the aggregates levy; [223771]

(2) what assessment he has made of the legality of the aggregates levy following the comments of 17 July of Advocate General Mengozzi of the European Court of Justice on the legality of the levy. [223772]

Mr. Timms: The Advocate General's Opinion is designed to aid the court in reaching its decision and is a preliminary stage in the proceedings, which are continuing. Discussions with the British Aggregates Association would not be appropriate while the case continues.

Capital Gains Tax: Tax Allowances

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of introducing a retirement relief on capital gains tax of *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £250,000, *(c)* £500,000 and *(d)* £1,000,000. [222939]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him by the former Financial Secretary (Jane Kennedy) on 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W.

Car Allowances

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the mileage rate permitted for expenses claims above which tax may be applied. [223833]

Mr. Timms: The Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that the Government would maintain the tax-free mileage allowance (AMAPs) rates and thresholds at current levels.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the chequer pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 230W, on council tax: valuation, what the cost to the public purse was of the work on the council tax banding support tool by CapGemini, SAS and CLT/Tyler Technologies. [222479]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is commercially confidential.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether those staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [222062]

Angela Eagle: The travel policy in the Treasury and its agencies is for staff to use the class of travel most appropriate to business needs. Where this means staff use standard or economy tickets in preference to business or first class, they derive no benefit either monetary or in kind.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221096]

Angela Eagle: Energy efficiency is one of a number of factors taken into account before entering agreements to rent or purchase buildings.

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [221999]

Angela Eagle: The OGC relocated to the Treasury building in 1 Horse Guards road in October 2007. They occupy some 2000m^2 that includes space for a small number of workstations used by OGC Buying Solutions.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many notifications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies made to the Information Commissioner following the loss or mishandling of personal information or data in each of the last three years; and what was notified in each case. [222900]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury and its agencies (DMO, OGC and OGCbuyingsolutions), in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, did not report any personal data related incidents for the period 2007-08 to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Before November 2007 the Information Commissioner's Office did not specifically keep records of instances of security breaches.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in government.

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [222060]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury made use of ACORN data in 2004 and MOSAIC data in 2007 in connection with financial exclusion. None of the Treasury's agencies has made use of either MOSAIC or ACORN data.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 128W, on departmental home working, if he will make it his policy to collate and maintain central records of home working by his Department's staff. [222535]

Ian Pearson: It is appropriate for managers within the Treasury to approve and monitor applications from staff to homework. There are no plans to collate and maintain central records.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list each type of data that has been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222063]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury and its agencies have not sold any data under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months.

Core information produced by HM Treasury and its agencies can be reused free of charge under the terms of the PSI Click-Use Licence which is administered by the Office of Public Sector Information in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mark Hunter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on mobile telephones in each year since 1997. [222343]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Financial Secretary (John Healey) to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 375W.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222061]

Angela Eagle: None.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in each pay grade in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [221241]

Angela Eagle: The hours worked in overtime by HM Treasury staff by grade in the 12 months since August 2007 are shown in the following table. The peaks occurring in November and April are due to staff working additional hours in connection with the pre-Budget report and the annual budget.

HM Treasury: overtime hours worked by grade between August 2007 and July 2008

	Grade									
	A	*B*	*B National*	*C*	*C National*	*D*	*D National*	*E*	*E National*	*Student*
July	0	233	37	535	73	1,606	80	987	0	0
June	0	261	24	552	43	1,318	95	826	0	34

HM Treasury: overtime hours worked by grade between August 2007 and July 2008

	Grade									
	A	*B*	*B National*	*C*	*C National*	*D*	*D National*	*E*	*E National*	*Student*
May	0	250	17	461	67	1,802	139	668	17	39
April	0	499	156	1,081	208	4,326	107	5,067	0	172
March	0	577	17	494	69	2,212	66	1,325	0	68
February	0	330	41	508	109	1,932	59	513	0	0
January	0	152	0	549	26	1,788	19	1,238	0	29
December	0	252	41	434	0	1,268	74	1,265	0	35
November	0	858	34	1,850	283	6,400	20	4,294	0	146
October	0	105	128	614	115	1,828	117	646	0	34
September	0	30	15	261	47	579	72	88	0	0
August	49	129	10	508	17	1,066	66	558	0	0

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221302]

Angela Eagle: The amount paid in overtime to HM Treasury staff by grade in each of the last 12 months are given in the following table.

HM Treasury: overtime paid by grade between August 2007 and July 2008

£000

	Grade									
	A	*B*	*B National*	*C*	*C National*	*D*	*D National*	*E*	*E National*	*Student*
July	0	4	0	9	0	23	1	19	0	0
June	0	4	0	8	0	18	1	17	0	0
May	0	4	0	7	0	23	2	12	0	0
April	0	7	1	17	2	56	1	72	0	2
March	0	4	0	8	1	28	1	27	0	1
February	0	5	0	8	0	22	1	9	0	0
January	0	3	0	9	0	25	0	24	0	0
December	0	4	0	7	0	13	0	26	0	0
November	0	4	0	16	3	67	0	72	0	1
October	0	1	1	9	1	23	0	12	0	0
September	0	1	0	3	0	10	1	0	0	0
August	1	2	0	7	0	16	0	8	0	0

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Minister has responsibility for each of his Department's public service agreement targets. [223983]

Mr. Timms: For the 2007 comprehensive spending review period, HM Treasury has lead responsibility for one public service agreement (PSA):

"Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020 (PSA 9)".

The Exchequer Secretary has responsibility for the performance of the Treasury under the direction of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221837]

Angela Eagle: Neither the Treasury nor its agencies have any record of contracts with EDF Energy for the supply of energy in any of the last 10 years. The Treasury's accounting record shows three annual payments of £701 having been made to EDF Energy since 2006-07 in respect of a communication charge and the leasing of an electricity meter.

EU Budget: Contributions

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the effect of sterling/euro exchange rate changes on the UK net contribution to the EU in *(a)* each of the last five years for which figures are available and *(b)* 2008 to date, using the previous Budget Red Book as a base figure in each case. [222496]

Ian Pearson: No separate estimate is made. Exchange rate changes will, of course, impact on these forecasts but this is only one of a number of factors which are taken into account, and which inter-relate with each other, in putting together each forecast. Figures for UK net contributions to the EC Budget are published twice each year in the Budget and the pre-Budget report (PBR) and latest estimates will be included in the PBR later this year.

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or the administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222278]

Ian Pearson: The EU is of central importance to the work of HM Government across all Departments. It is relevant to a wide range of policy areas, and to the work of many Government officials. Detailed information of the kind requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the changes to vehicle excise duty introduced in the 2008 Budget on the value of second hand cars. [221767]

Ian Pearson: A number of factors affect the purchase price of second hand vehicles, such as brand, mileage, reliability and comfort. Tax is only one factor.

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration his Department has given to the introduction of a derogation from road tax increases for working farm vehicles. [224438]

Mr. Timms: Vehicles used solely for agricultural purposes are exempt from vehicle excise duty.

Fraud

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 964-65, on fraud, what cases referred to in the answer were excluding any references to individuals; and which cases *(a)* are under investigation and *(b)* have been resolved. [220835]

Mr. Timms: As there were fewer than five cases, it would not be appropriate to provide details. All cases have been resolved.

Higher Civil Servants

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people his Department employs who have an annual salary of over £100,000. [222322]

Angela Eagle: 15 Treasury officials currently have an annual salary of over £100,000.

Housing: Greater London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment the Valuation Office Agency has made of the average house price in London in *(a)* April 2006, *(b)* April 2007 and *(c)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [222839]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) does not assess an average house price in London. However, it produces a biannual Property Market Report, based on valuation dates of January and July each year, that includes statistics for indicative house values across 17 areas of London for five different dwelling types ranging from pre war terraced houses to 1960s flats. The statistics can be viewed on the VOA's website www.voa.gov.uk under 'Publications'.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 988W, on housing: valuation, if he will place in the Library an Excel chart listing the numerical value of the co-efficient for each locality used by the automated valuation model. [223081]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1393W.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 988W, and to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 912-13W, on housing: valuation, what unique number has been given to each locality; and in which billing authority each lies. [223086]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency has allocated for data capture in 2008-09. [223089]

Jane Kennedy: Data capture is an integral part of much of the work of the Valuation Office Agency and not subject to a separate cost allocation.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 988W, on housing: valuation, what the average area of each locality is. [223092]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1689W. No precise calculation of the total or average individual area has been made as this is not required for operational purposes—and to do so would involve disproportionate cost.

Income Tax: Prisoners

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions income tax has been repaid to people in custody in the last three years. [224310]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of the personal allowance for income tax would be in the 2008-09 tax year if it had been increased in line with the Retail Price Index since 1972. [222502]

Jane Kennedy: The income tax personal allowance would be £4,065 for 2008-09 if it had been increased in line with the retail prices index each year since 1972.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on revenue to the Exchequer of decreasing the basic rate of income tax by *(a)* one penny, *(b)* two pence, *(c)* three pence, *(d)* four pence and *(e)* five pence. [222937]

Mr. Timms: The Exchequer effect of changes in the basic rate of income tax can be derived from table 1.6 'Direct effects of illustrative tax changes' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether hon. Members who report alleged instances of employers paying wages at rates below the national minimum wage are routinely informed of steps taken by his Department in response to such reports. [221704]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs have a legal duty of confidentiality towards their customers. For NMW, this includes employers and their workers. This means that HM Revenue and Customs cannot routinely disclose details to Members who report alleged instances of non-compliant employers. However, where the Member is acting in a representative capacity for a named worker and the worker has submitted a signed authority to that effect, the Member may be kept informed of progress.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken on enforcement of provisions relating to the national minimum wage; and if he will make a statement. [221752]

Mr. Timms: The enforcement activities of HMRC for 2007-08 will be set out in the Government Evidence to the Low Pay Commission 2008 (non-economic evidence), expected to be available on the BERR website this month. The enforcement activities of HMRC for recent years prior to 2007-08 are set out in the Government Evidence for previous years that is now available on the BERR website.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fines have been issued to employers for paying employees at rates below the national minimum wage in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wakefield district and *(c)* Hemsworth constituency since the provisions came into force; and what the sum of such fines has been in each year. [221754]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available in the categories specified.

Mortgage Relief

Mr. Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what spending was on tax reliefs under the mortgage interest relief at source scheme in each of the last 20 years, broken down by *(a)* type of tenancy and *(b)* category of housing provision. [221776]

Ian Pearson: Available information on the cost of mortgage interest relief is published on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/mir/menu.htm

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how vehicles retro-fitted with a hydrogen kit are treated for vehicle excise duty purposes; what tax banding applies to such vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [221697]

Mr. Timms: VED will be fuel neutral from 2011-12.

Vehicles fitted with retrofitted devices marketed to aid fuel savings remain subject to VED under CO_2 graduated brandings if registered from 1 March 2001 onwards, or engine capacity based rated of VED if registered earlier. All vehicles registered or built prior to 1973 remain nil rated if not in commercial use.

Northern Rock

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he was first advised by Goldman Sachs that under the best case scenario for Northern Rock the related costs to the Exchequer would be at least £450 million. [223253]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The information requested relates to proceedings that are currently before the courts and so it would be inappropriate to comment.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what planning applications were made by his Department between 2001-02 and 2006-07; and for what purpose in each case. [222841]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury made no planning applications during the period concerned.

Revenue and Customs: Job Satisfaction

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the full results of each of the staff satisfaction surveys at HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [222617]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs currently conduct a staff survey twice yearly covering 20,000 to 30,000 staff.

The most recent results from November 2007 are published on the Department's external website and are available for viewing.

The published results show comparisons with the previous staff surveys that have taken place since the formation of HMRC on 18 April 2005.

Revenue and Customs: Rightmove

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 234W, on Revenue and Customs: Rightmove, what the timetable is for the operational decision to be made on whether to extend the contract. [222486]

Jane Kennedy: No firm timetable exists.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 234W, on Revenue and Customs: Rightmove, when the contracts expire; and whether the expiration of the contract would mean that historic data could still be accessed. [222487]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1106-07.

Revenue and Customs: Southend on Sea

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will visit the HM Revenue and Customs offices in Southend-on-Sea to meet *(a)* staff and *(b)* union representatives to discuss the number of staff employed at the office; and if he will make a statement. [222287]

Mr. Timms: The Minister responsible for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has visited several HMRC offices and will continue to do so, meeting regularly with Members of Parliament and union representatives to discuss HMRC's Workforce Change programme.

I have no current plans to visit the offices in Southend but I would be happy to meet the hon. Gentleman to discuss matters of concern to him.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will maintain 2,000 jobs in HM Revenue and Customs offices in Southend; and if he will make a statement. [222290]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is committed to maintaining a substantial presence in Southend. Staffing projections are published and updated on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/local/change-programme.htm.

The latest staffing projections for Southend were published in May 2008 and indicate that about 1,600 HMRC staff will be needed there by 2011.

Schools

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of materials his Department has distributed to schools in the last three years. [223958]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury has not published or distributed any publications to schools in the last three years.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of trends in the levels of house prices on stamp duty receipts. [222936]

Ian Pearson: Data on stamp duty receipts up to 2007—the most recent year for which figures are published—can be found at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-3.xls.

Data on house prices up to the end of quarter 2 of 2008 can be found at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140954.xls.

The Treasury does not publish forecasts of house prices and transactions.

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Tax Allowances

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homes qualified for the zero carbon home stamp duty relief since its inception, broken down by constituency; and if he will make a statement. [222727]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury does not publish the information broken down by constituency.

Stamp Duty: Marriage

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the effects of the application of stamp duty to the transfer of property on the separation of unmarried partners who own a property jointly; and if he will make a statement. [221696]

Ian Pearson: No representations have been received recently regarding the application of stamp duty to the transfer of property on the separation of unmarried partners who own a property jointly.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222180]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has policies and services in place to manage stress at work. Information and training is being provided to all employees on the prevention, recognition and management of stress at work. A Stress Steering Group, chaired by a senior official and involving the trade unions is leading the implementation of the Health and Safety Executive's stress management standards.

Taxation: Fuels

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on revenue to the Exchequer of *(a)* petroleum revenue tax and *(b)* value added tax from increased oil prices since the 2008 Budget. [222943]

Angela Eagle: Updated estimates for petroleum revenue tax and value added tax receipts will be published in the forthcoming pre-Budget report.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 12 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 887W, on the Valuation Office Agency, and the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 226-27W, on housing: valuation, whether the ACORN data were used in whole or in part by the Valuation Office Agency to assist with the division of the country into the 10,000 localities. [222877]

Jane Kennedy: ACORN data were found to be of limited practical value to this task and was not a key determinant of the extent of localities.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 30 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 51W, on the Valuation Office Agency, how much has been spent by the Valuation Office Agency on ACORN data from CACI Ltd; and when the last dataset update was provided to the Agency. [222878]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 12 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 881W. No dataset update has been provided and, accordingly, the Agency has spent no additional money on acquiring ACORN data.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Valuation Office Agency's National Ratepayers' Valuation Forum of 11 March 2008. [222916]

Jane Kennedy: The minutes of the meeting of the National Ratepayers Forum of 11 March 2008 are available on the Valuation Office Agency website at:

www.voa.gov.uk.

Valuation Office: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 258-9W, on the Valuation Office: databases, whether the information being provided to the Valuation Office Agency by Ordnance Survey is in respect of *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* both. [223077]

Jane Kennedy: The information being provided to the Valuation Office Agency by Ordnance Survey is in respect of both England and Wales.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1015W, on departmental ICT, what contracts with an IT component the Valuation Office Agency has entered into in the last five years. [223078]

Jane Kennedy: The primary ICT contracts for the VOA are via the HMRC Aspire and Sprint contracts; the majority of 3rd party procurement is through these existing contract frameworks, although a small system contract has been entered into separately:

Development and maintenance of time recording and case management system (TRACS software (incl. Panasonic data (barcode) scanners)) with TMS.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1106-07W, on the Valuation Office Agency: Rightmove, whether Rightmove.co.uk plc is supplying current property data to the Valuation Office Agency. [223079]

Jane Kennedy: It is not.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1106-07W, on the Valuation Office Agency: Rightmove, what the date is by which the Valuation Office Agency and HM Revenue and Customs acting on the Agency's behalf must take an operational decision on whether to extend the contract with Rightmove. [223080]

Jane Kennedy: No date is specified in the contract relating to when a decision to extend must be taken.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of tax credits in meeting their objectives in the last three years. [222834]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC undertakes a range of research about the tax credits system. Details of planned and ongoing research as well as research findings are published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/

Welfare Tax Credits: Bolton

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents of Bolton North East constituency made a claim for a tax credit in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [222833]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the number of applications made for tax credits by constituency is not available.

However, estimates of the average number of families with tax credit awards in 2005-06 and 2006-07 in each constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics

Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant financial year. These are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personaltax-credits/cwto-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2007-08 is not yet available because awards have not yet been finalised.

Welfare Tax Credits: IGT

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many cases of tax credit administration the computer system has been incapable of producing a result and the case has been transferred to manual management in the latest period for which figures are available. [222025]

Jane Kennedy: Out of the six million households in receipt of tax credits, around 20,000 were being dealt with clerically at the end of June 2008.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 210664 on vehicle excise duty tabled on 9 June 2008 by the hon. Member for Southend West; what the reason for the time taken to reply is; what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to answer written parliamentary questions within a working week of them being tabled; and if he will make a statement. [222369]

Angela Eagle: I answered the hon. Gentleman's question on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 722-6W and regret not being in a position to have done so earlier. Treasury Ministers endeavour to answer parliamentary questions promptly, wherever possible.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 6 October 2008

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 521W, on abortion, for what reasons a written record of discussions with the organisations referred to is not available; and if he will make a statement. [222228]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold a formal record of each of the individual interviews that took place. However, some of the information obtained from those discussions was used to develop the partial regulatory impact assessment.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 330W, on abortion, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance listed; and if he will make a statement. [222229]

Dawn Primarolo: Further to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 330W, a copy of the listed guidance has been placed in the Library, as requested.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 330W, on abortion, on what date the document Good Practice Guidance for the Commissioning of Contraception and Abortion Services will be published; if he will place copies of this document in *(a)* the Vote Office and *(b)* the Printed Paper Office; and if he will make a statement. [222230]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's forthcoming document "Good Practice Guidance for the Commissioning of Contraception and Abortion Services" will be published in the autumn. A publication date is yet to be agreed. Copies will be placed in the Library and will be made available to hon. Members and Peers in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office as requested.

Accidents

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the work undertaken by the Accidental Injury Prevention Programme in his Department; and how many officials in his Department have responsibility for this programme, broken down by *(a)* pay band and *(b)* location. [222235]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department, in partnership with stakeholders including other Government Departments, has been working to prevent accidental injury and to promote safety. For example, the National Service Frameworks for Children and Older People, through their standards for health and well-being, recognise the importance of unintentional injury and the need for prevention initiatives led by the NHS in partnership with local authorities. The Department has also asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to develop a suite of guidance on the prevention of unintentional injury in children under 15 year olds. It is also working with Department for Children, Schools and Families on its cross-government Public Service Agreement to improve children and young people's safety.

There are five officials in the central Department who, as part of their duties, have direct responsibility for the coordination of accident prevention, as shown in the following table .

Pay Band	*Number*	*Location*
Permanent Secretary (Chief Medical Officer)	1	London
SCS3	1	London
SCS2	1	London
SCSI	1	London
EO	1	London

Alcoholic Drinks: Consumption

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account was taken of the conclusions of his Department's inter-departmental working group on sensible drinking published in December 1995 in formulating the Government's policy on alcohol consumption; and if he will make a statement. [222325]

Dawn Primarolo: The report of the conclusions of the Department's inter-departmental working group on sensible drinking, "Sensible Drinking", were published in December 1995 and drew upon a wide range of research, epidemiological evidence, expert consensus and advice, including reports from various Royal Colleges, in considering the relative risks and potential benefits of alcohol consumption to both health and mortality.

The Government fully accepted the group's conclusions and their findings remain the basis for our advice, that men should not regularly exceed 3-4 units daily and women 2-3 units daily.

The Government continue to keep under review the emergence of any major new evidence on risks relating to alcohol consumption, to ensure guidance remains up to date. For example, when new evidence concerning alcohol and pregnancy was identified the CMO issued revised advice on 25 May 2007.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on health of moderate alcohol consumption and its contribution to the prevention of coronary heart disease; and if he will make a statement. [222327]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's interdepartmental working group on sensible drinking reviewed the evidence concerning the beneficial effects of alcohol consumption to both health and mortality and their findings were published in the report "Sensible Drinking", in 1995.

They found that light to moderate consumption of alcohol, less than two units of alcohol a day, at ages over 45 for men or post-menopause for women, can have a protective effect against a number of diseases, including coronary heart disease. However, drinking at this level may also contribute to other health harms, although at a lower level of risk.

Government guidance primarily focuses on advising the public about the progressive risks to their health associated with drinking above lower risk levels—i.e. either increasing risk or higher risk levels of consumption. This is because of the clear evidence that alcohol consumption contributes to a wide range of health harms, particularly when drunk regularly above the lower risk levels. The evidence also suggests that regular drinking above the lower risk levels does not incur any additional protective effect for coronary heart disease. Hence, the advice on lower risk drinking levels for men and women remains consistent with the evidence of possible health benefits for coronary heart disease.

The Government continue to keep under review the emergence of any major new evidence on the risks and benefits relating to alcohol consumption, to ensure that guidance remains up to date.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the impact of alcohol consumption on public health on Merseyside, with particular reference to its effect on child well-being; and if he will make a statement. [219922]

Dawn Primarolo: The public health consequences from alcohol consumption are well known. On 22 July 2008, the Department published the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO) report, "Alcohol-attributable fractions for England—Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions", which summarised the current information on the health risks from alcohol consumption. A copy of this report has been placed in the Library.

Although the Department's research is currently focused on improving prevention and treatment services, we continue to keep under review the emergence of any major new evidence on the risks and benefits relating to alcohol consumption, to ensure that guidance remains up-to-date.

Local Alcohol Profiles England, run by the NWPHO, provide data for local authorities and primary care trusts (PCT) on the local impact of alcohol use, which allow local alcohol strategies to be tailored to the needs for specific areas.

During 1 July 2008 and 2 September 2008 'Safe Space', a programme to make public spaces safe and to reduce anti-social behaviour, was run in Merseyside. As part of this programme Liverpool PCT and Working Neighbourhood Fund ran 'Safe Space Plus', an initiative that specially addressed alcohol related anti-social behaviour and engaged with young people to encourage safe and sensible drinking. Additional objectives for 'Safe Space Plus' included enabling access to brief interventions or treatment to reduce alcohol consumption, where appropriate, and raising awareness of the risks associated with alcohol consumption.

The NWPHO are evaluating 'Safe Space Plus' and will be outlining the impact of 'Safe Space Plus' on young people and the wider community in a report expected to be published in early 2009.

Ambulance Services: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hoax 999 calls were answered by ambulances in London in the last period for which figures are available. [222763]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this matter with the chief executive of London Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Arthritis: Drugs

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of patients with rheumatoid arthritis are expected to receive a second anti-TNF treatment used sequentially after the failure of a first anti-TNF treatment in the next two years; and if he will make a statement; [222250]

(2) if he will estimate the number of patients with rheumatoid arthritis who will not be provided with sequential treatments with anti-TNF drugs over the next five years as a result of the ruling by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the issue; [222251]

(3) what records he holds for benchmarking purposes on the use of anti-TNF treatments in other EU countries; what assessment he has made of how that pattern of use differs from *(a)* that of its use in England and *(b)* the differential results of that use in the UK and other member states; and if he will make a statement. [222252]

Dawn Primarolo: We have made no estimate of the proportion of patients with rheumatoid arthritis who are expected to receive a second anti-TNF treatment.

We have made no estimate of the number of patients with rheumatoid arthritis who are expected not be provided with sequential treatments with anti-TNF drugs over the next five years. The Department holds no records on the use of anti-TNF treatments in other EU countries.

British Fluoridation Society: Finance

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has provided to the British Fluoridation Society in the last three years; and whether the Society receives such funding on *(a)* a regular or *(b)* an ad hoc basis. [223844]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department ceased to fund the British Fluoridation Society in 2005 after legislation was enacted requiring decisions on fluoridation to be taken locally.

Cancer

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had about the future of cancer care in Merseyside and Cheshire; [221765]

(2) what consideration he has given to improving cancer services on the Clatterbridge Hospital site; [222962]

(3) what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing a high dependency cancer unit on site at Clatterbridge Hospital. [223000]

Ann Keen: The delivery and organisation of services is the responsibility of the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders. Any proposals regarding cancer services at the Clatterbridge hospital site remain the responsibility of the Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with its local primary care trusts and other relevant stakeholders.

There have been no discussions involving the Secretary of State for Health or his ministerial colleagues on this matter.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which cancer networks *(a)* have and *(b)* do not have a patient information manager in place. [220965]

Ann Keen: As at 8 September 2008, 18 of the 30 networks already have a patient information manager in post and the remainder are expected to have one in post by February 2009. The following tables list those cancer networks with a patient information manager currently in post and those without.

Cancer networks with a patient information manager in post

Arden
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire
Central South Coast
Dorset
Greater Manchester and Cheshire
Greater Midlands
Humber and Yorkshire Coast
Lancashire and South Cumbria
Merseyside and Cheshire
Mid Trent
North East London
North Trent
Northern Cancer Network
Peninsula
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire
Thames Valley
Three Counties
Yorkshire

Cancer networks without a patient information manager in post

Anglian
Derby-Burton
Essex
Kent and Medway
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland
Mount Vernon
North London
Pan Birmingham
South East London
South West London
Sussex
West London

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what proportion of patients in care homes receiving nursing care *(a)* have their costs paid by a primary care trust through fully-funded NHS continuing care, *(b)* are self-funded and *(c)* are funded by a local authority; [222685]

(2) how many patients are receiving nursing care in care homes. [222686]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested.

At December 2002, there were 41,580 self-funding residents receiving nursing care in care homes in England. Information for later years is not collected centrally.

As at 31 March 2007, the latest data available, 70,065 people whose costs were met wholly or partly by a council with adult social services responsibilities were resident in a nursing care home.

In October 2001, the Government delivered on time the commitment given in the NHS Plan to introduce national health service funded nursing care for those in a care home providing nursing care, who had previously paid for the care they needed from a registered nurse. From April 2003, all residents of care homes providing nursing care, including those placed by local authorities, have received NHS funding of their nursing care, rather than that element of their care being provided by the local council and subject to a means test.

In 2007-08, 117,587 people, including self-funders, were receiving NHS-funded free nursing care[1].

The Government have produced a new national framework, which sets out a single, national system for determining eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare. The Framework, which was implemented, in October 2007, will lead to fair and consistent access to NHS funding across England, irrespective of location, so that people with equal needs have an equal chance of getting all their care free.

In 2007-08, 38,168 people were receiving NHS Continuing Healthcare[1].

[1] Source—Department of Health form LDPR 2007-08, quarter 4.

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice on what occasions the *(a)* Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust and *(b)* Westminister Primary Care Trust have received from (i) his Department and (ii) the Healthcare Commission on the requirement for patients referred to the Chelsea and Westminister Hospital Foundation by GPs contracted to their primary care trust, to be able to use the choose and book appointment system; and if he will make a statement. [222389]

Mr. Bradshaw: Advice has been continually given by the Department and national health service Connecting for Health, to primary care trusts (PCTs) and providers of NHS care on the implementation of Choose and Book. The NHS Operating Framework for 2006-07 set a target that 90 per cent., of general practitioner referrals to first consultant-led out-patient services should be made through the Choose and Book system to a directly bookable service by March 2007. This was reconfirmed in the Operating Framework for 2007-08, and also mentioned in the Information Management and Technology guidance, with the aim of moving towards a position where Choose and Book is used as the standard safe and secure method for all referrals.

We are informed that the Healthcare Commission has given no advice to the Kensington and Chelsea PCT, and Westminster PCT on the requirement for patients referred to the Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation Trust to be able to use the Choose and Book appointment system.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice on what occasions the Chelsea and Westminister Hospital Foundation Trust has been given on the implementation of the policy of allowing patients to use the choose and book appointments system by *(a)* Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts and *(b)* the Healthcare Commission; and if he will make a statement. [222390]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are informed by the Chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) that no advice has been given to the Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation Trust on the implementation of Choose and Book, except to specify the basis on which NHS foundation trusts (NHSFT) should report compliance, and to draw attention to the definition of the Choose and Book target.

We are also informed that the Healthcare Commission has given no advice to the Chelsea and Westminster NHSFT in relation to the implementation of the policy of allowing patients to use the Book and Choose system.

Choose and Book is a national service that combines electronic booking and a choice of time, date and place for first consultant led out-patient appointments. Advice has been continually given by the Department and NHS Connecting for Health to primary care trusts and providers of NHS care on the implementation of Choose and Book. The NHS Operating Framework for 2006-07 set a target that 90 per cent. of general practitioner referrals to first consultant-led outpatient services should be made through the Choose and Book system to a directly bookable service by March 2007. This was reconfirmed in the Operating Framework for 2007-08 and also mentioned in the Information Management and Technology guidance with the aim of moving towards a position where Choose and Book is used as the standard safe and secure method for all referrals.

Children: Health

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1777W, on child health who the suppliers are of information for appendices 4, 7, 13 and 17; and what those documents refer to; [221443]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 634W, on the Child Health Interim Application (CHIA) for what reasons *(a)* the output based specification for the CHIA options appraisal report and *(b)* the weighting and scoring spreadsheet are commercially sensitive. [221634]

Ann Keen: The documents in question comprise the following:

Appendix 4: Description of Standalone Service Community Solution (extract from output based specification);

Appendix 7: Supplier Responses (from CSW Group, CSE Servelec, McKesson UK, Health Solution Wales) to Child Health Standalone Service Requirements V1.0 04/08/06;

Appendix 13: Supplier Responses (from CSW Group, CSE Servelec, McKesson UK, Health Solution Wales) to Additional NHS Questions Post Demonstration;

Appendix 17: Weighting and Scoring Template (BT document).

Following further discussion with BT, the basis on which this material was withheld previously—namely, that it would, or would be likely to, cause prejudice to the commercial interests of the suppliers—has been reviewed. While appendices 7 and 13 continue to be judged commercially sensitive, copies of appendices 4 and 17 have now been placed in the Library.

Chiropody: Services

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what national guidelines are in place on the provision of free podiatry services for older people; and if he will make a statement; [222475]

(2) what income from charging for podiatry services each English health trust accrued in each of last five years; [222477]

(3) how much was spent on podiatry services in each English health trust in each of the last five reported years. [222483]

Dawn Primarolo: All national health service podiatry services are provided free of charge on the basis of assessed clinical need. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly.

Guidance for access to foot care is included in the national service frameworks for older people, diabetes, and long-term conditions, and the White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services".

Information about how much funding PCTs allocate to podiatry services is not collected centrally.

Foot care services for older people are being reviewed as part of the prevention package announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson) in May. The purpose of the package is to raise awareness among older people, of the existing core prevention services to which they are entitled and to support the service in making improvements in other key areas such as foot care. The package is due to be launched in spring 2009.

Chiropody: Standards

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 523W, on chiropody, whether he plans to set consistent minimum standards for NHS chiropody provision across regions. [223850]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans to set minimum standards for the provision of chiropody services centrally. Access to chiropody services is a matter for primary care trusts based on the assessed needs of their local population. To help trusts develop their policy for access to foot care, guidance is included in the national service frameworks for older people, diabetes, and long-term conditions, and the White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services".

CJD

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will commission further epidemiological studies into common factors among those who have contracted variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease; and if he will make a statement; [222328]

(2) if he will hold discussions with his counterparts in the devolved administrations on epidemiological studies of possible sources of rogue prions in the 1980s and 1990s that caused variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease; and if he will make a statement. [222329]

Dawn Primarolo: The National CJD Surveillance Unit (NCJDSU) currently considers the epidemiology of all new cases in the United Kingdom, against the background of on-going studies examining risk factors for vCJD. Findings are regularly published in peer reviewed journals and the NCJDSU Annual Report.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* deaths from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) and *(b)* new diagnoses of vCJD there have been since the period covered by the press release placed on his Department's website on vCJD statistics in October 2007; and if he will make a statement. [222331]

Dawn Primarolo: There has been one new vCJD diagnosis and three deaths since the final monthly press release dated 2 October 2007.

CJD: Babies

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were diagnosed with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) after being born to mothers with vCJD in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [222332]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been no reported cases of maternal transmission of vCJD by the National CJD Surveillance Unit.

CJD: Blood

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 256W, on blood transfusions, how many infected tonsils so far analysed were from V-V or M-V genotypes; and if he will make a statement. [222311]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Anonymous Tonsil Archive has tested approximately 70,000 pairs of tonsils to date, none of them tested positive.

CJD: Death

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records he holds on the number of UK citizens who lived overseas who died from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in the last 10 years. [222309]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been three known cases of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) in which the onset of disease occurred whilst the patient was living in the United Kingdom, but who died overseas. The National CJD Surveillance Unit includes these cases in the figures for the UK, because they lived in the UK at the time of the onset of their illness.

CJD: Dental Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what checks have been made by his Department following the Chief Dental Officer's advice that certain instruments used in endodontic work should only be used once as a precaution against the spread of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease to ensure that such instruments are not being used more than once; and if he will make a statement. [222330]

Dawn Primarolo: Feedback from primary care trusts and dental practices supported by evidence from suppliers of dental equipment, which shows that there has been an increase in sales of single use instruments, suggests that the guidance is being observed. To corroborate these findings we are to undertake a National Dental Decontamination Survey to provide data on current practice on decontamination, including use of single use instruments, in dental practices. We intend that the survey should comprise a postal questionnaire to a sample of practices followed up by visits to at least 100 practices.

CJD: Statistics

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department last issued a press release with monthly vCJD statistics; when he next expects to update the figures on his Department's website; what the reasons are for the time taken to release vCJD statistics; and if he will make a statement. [222313]

Dawn Primarolo: The final monthly press release of vCJD statistics was issued on 2 October 2007. The Department is no longer issuing these statistics because it duplicates the official statistics published by the National CJD Surveillance Unit. The Department's website now refers users directly to the NCJDSU website at http://www.cjd.ed.ac.uk/, which contains the latest statistics, which are updated on a monthly basis.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the roll-out of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme to be completed for all those eligible. [222541]

Ann Keen: Roll-out of the national NHS bowel cancer screening programme began in April 2006, with the first invitations sent out in July 2006. Full national implementation is expected by December 2009.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have yet to be included in the NHS bowel cancer screening programme for 60 to 69 year olds; and when he expects the programme to be rolled out in each primary care trust. [222542]

Dawn Primarolo: We are continuing to roll out the NHS bowel cancer screening programme and expect it to be fully implemented by December 2009. The following table lists the remaining primary care trusts where bowel cancer screening will commence in the final roll-out.

Strategic health authority	*Primary care trust*
East Midlands	Lincolnshire
East of England	Luton
East of England	South East Essex
East of England	Bedfordshire
East of England	Peterborough
East of England	West Essex
East of England	North East Essex
East of England	Mid Essex
East of England	South West Essex
London	Bromley
London	Bexley Care Trust
London	Havering
North West	Blackburn with Darwen
North West	Stockport
North West	Tameside and Glossop
North West	East Lancashire
North West	Trafford
South Central	Oxfordshire
South Central	Isle of Wight
South Central	Milton Keynes
South Central	Buckinghamshire
South East Coast	Brighton and Hove City
South East Coast	Surrey
South East Coast	East Sussex Downs and Weald
South East Coast	Hastings and Rother
South East Coast	Eastern and Coastal Kent
South East Coast	Medway
South East Coast	West Kent
South West	Bath and North East Somerset
South West	Swindon
South West	Wiltshire
South West	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
South West	South Gloucestershire
South West	North Somerset
South West	Bristol
West Midlands	Telford and Wrekin
West Midlands	Herefordshire
West Midlands	South Birmingham
West Midlands	Shropshire County
West Midlands	Worcestershire
Yorkshire and The Humber	Wakefield District
Yorkshire and The Humber	Calderdale
Yorkshire and The Humber	Leeds
Yorkshire and The Humber	Kirklees

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve take-up of the bowel cancer screening programme amongst hard to reach groups. [222543]

Ann Keen: As the NHS bowel cancer screening programme has not yet been rolled out fully across the country, we have yet to identify any specific problems with uptake. We expect the programme to be fully implemented by December 2009.

When the bowel cancer screening programme is fully operational, we will be in a position to identify whether there are any issues surrounding uptake in any particular groups, including black and minority ethnic and deprived groups. If any health inequalities in bowel cancer screening are identified, it will be for those primary care trusts with low uptake levels to develop targeted programmes to tackle them.

A booklet entitled 'Bowel Cancer Screening: The Facts', which provides information about bowel cancer and sets out the benefits and risks of participating in the screening programme, is sent out with each invitation. A copy has been placed in the Library. This has been translated into a number of languages. It is important to note that no screening method is perfect and anyone invited to be screened for cancer must be aware of both the potential benefits and harms of being screened and be able to make an informed decision on whether or not to take part.

In December 2007, the Cancer Reform Strategy established the National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative, led by the National Cancer Director. The initiative will improve cancer symptom awareness amongst members of the public and healthcare professionals, and will encourage people with symptoms to seek medical help earlier than they do now. It will work with NHS Cancer Screening programmes on key messages and awareness programmes to improve screening uptake, particularly in deprived groups.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the size of the eligible population for bowel cancer screening, broken down by *(a)* screening hub and *(b)* sex. [223018]

Mr. Bradshaw: Full national roll out of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme is expected by December 2009. The following table shows the projected estimate of the size of the eligible population for bowel cancer screening (men and women aged 60 to 69) by regional screening hub once the programme has been fully rolled out across the country.

Sex	Southern	Eastern	North East	London	Midlands and North West	Total
Male	697,907	514,374	398,156	427,502	656,134	2,694,073
Female	701,266	514,786	402,158	416,530	639,294	2,674,034
Total	1,399,173	1,029,160	800,314	844,032	1,295,428	5,368,107

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many faecal occult blood test kits were issued in each month since the start of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme, broken down by *(a)* screening hub and *(b)* sex. [223019]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows, as at 14 July 2008, the number of faecal occult blood testing kits issued each month since the start of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme, broken down by screening hub and sex.

	London			Southern			Eastern			North East			Midlands and North West		
	M	F	I	M	F	I	M	F	I	M	F	I	M	F	I
2006															
July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	399	386	—
August	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,263	1,230	—	—	—	—	855	879	—
September	—	—	—	54	51	—	1,988	1,888	—	—	—	—	822	816	—
October	329	313	—	1,333	1,323	—	2,086	2,073	—	—	—	—	2,431	2,453	—
November	1,535	1,473	—	1,640	1,626	—	1,744	1,684	—	—	—	—	3,415	3,351	—
December	1,545	1,523	—	1,278	1,286	—	1,184	1,209	—	—	—	—	2,667	2,642	—
2007															
January	2,840	2,914	—	1,039	1,040	—	1,627	1,472	—	—	—	—	2,880	3,025	—
February	2,871	2,960	—	2,425	2,369	—	2,029	1,881	—	930	921	—	4,637	4,463	—
March	4,078	3,939	—	2,300	2,207	—	2,394	2,284	—	7,329	7,352	—	4,369	4,248	—
April	4,337	4,141	—	3,395	3,370	—	2,766	2,659	—	6,384	6,537	—	5,567	5,505	—
May	5,085	5,043	—	5,588	5,705	—	3,209	3,248	—	7,707	7,550	—	8,677	8,681	—
June	5,525	5,521	—	4,843	4,777	—	2,860	2,793	—	7,108	7,043	—	8,880	8,069	—
July	6,187	5,992	—	5,051	4,987	—	5,594	5,487	—	3,709	3,616	—	10,610	10,463	—
August	6,855	7,001	—	4,464	4,355	—	6,797	6,646	—	3,236	3,254	—	10,753	10,543	—
September	6,481	6,134	—	4,254	4,422	—	5,260	5,174	—	5,628	5,726	—	11,660	12,094	—
October	9,528	9,494	—	5,203	5,246	—	6,452	6,566	—	8,371	8,428	—	11,849	12,003	—
November	10,555	10,629	—	5,129	5,043	—	6,795	6,770	—	9,868	9,874	—	11,546	11,274	—
December	11,654	11,599	1	8,372	8,168	—	4,859	4,779	—	7,619	7,648	—	14,974	14,561	—
2008															
January	14,721	14,960	1	6,096	6,137	—	9,526	9,414	—	10,182	10,192	—	13,194	13,286	—
February	12,353	12,332	—	5,516	5,485	—	11,655	11,579	—	12,734	12,620	—	12,158	12,094	—
March	12,940	12,833	—	8,894	8,898	—	16,564	16,481	—	14,481	14,573	—	15,108	15,136	—
April	14,736	14,656	—	14,330	14,399	—	16,789	16,684	1	15,048	14,928	—	23,055	22,902	—
May	16,526	16,282	—	18,152	18,158	—	19,238	18,935	—	15,086	15,000	—	27,272	16,748	—
June	14,576	14,652	—	17,397	16,881	—	19,127	18,557	—	15,194	15,509	—	25,841	25,326	—
July	8,613	8,477	—	7,802	7,685	—	7,132	7,089	—	6,766	6,818	—	11,776	11,697	—

M = Male
F = Female
I = Indeterminate
Note:
Multiple kits can be sent out to a single screening subject if their previous test kit(s) were, for example, a technical fail, spoilt, or a weak positive.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many completed faecal occult blood test kits were returned in each month since the start of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme, broken down by *(a)* screening hub and *(b)* sex. [223020]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows, as at 14 July 2008, the number of faecal occult blood testing kits returned since the start of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme, broken down by screening hub and sex.

	London			Southern			Eastern			North East			Midlands and North West		
	M	F	I	M	F	I	M	F	I	M	F	I	M	F	I
2006															
July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62	48	—

	London			Southern			Eastern			North East			Midlands and North West		
	M	F	I	M	F	I	M	F	I	M	F	I	M	F	I
August	—	—	—	—	—	—	314	332	—	—	—	—	361	360	—
September	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,023	989	—	—	—	—	360	380	—
October	—	—	—	404	400	—	1,405	1,453	—	—	—	—	896	870	—
November	324	322	—	781	873	—	1,317	1,339	—	—	—	—	1,537	1,703	—
December	384	409	—	673	666	—	691	673	—	—	—	—	1,282	1,270	—
2007															
January	939	1,103	—	842	994	—	1,078	1,129	—	—	—	—	1,909	2,041	—
February	1,110	1,345	—	1,100	1,149	—	1,177	1,184	—	—	—	—	2,226	2,227	—
March	1,181	1,308	—	1,249	1,336	—	1,444	1,475	—	2,526	2,467	—	2,424	2,540	—
April	1,775	1,908	—	1,311	1,400	—	1,483	1,527	—	3,309	3,538	—	2,391	2,584	—
May	2,003	2,139	—	2,637	3,029	—	2,016	2,030	—	3,957	4,022	—	4,108	4,504	—
June	2,042	2,268	—	2,862	3,143	—	1,606	1,698	—	3,738	3,772	—	4,398	4,733	—
July	2,635	2,941	—	3,053	3,323	—	2,765	2,898	—	3,580	3,523	—	5,606	5,976	—
August	2,385	2,570	—	2,647	2,843	—	3,383	3,636	—	1,816	1,840	—	5,966	6,521	—
September	2,622	2,835	—	2,360	2,561	—	3,300	3,605	—	2,465	2,552	—	6,013	6,549	—
October	3,028	3,263	—	2,748	3,080	—	3,099	3,370	—	3,799	3,983	—	6,672	7,382	—
November	3,961	4,580	—	3,093	3,317	—	4,008	4,250	—	4,999	5,248	—	7,032	7,574	—
December	2,746	2,864	—	2,454	2,431	—	3,211	3,266	—	3,597	3,513	—	5,066	4,924	—
2008															
January	5,685	6,860	—	5,163	5,760	—	4,897	5,463	—	6,061	6,405	—	9,824	10,904	—
February	5,091	5,864	1	3,562	3,885	—	5,581	6,118	—	6,234	6,610	—	7,343	8,077	—
March	4,692	5,366	—	3,277	3,336	—	7,650	8,238	—	7,336	7,713	—	6,705	6,942	—
April	6,104	7,101	—	7,118	8,321	—	9,371	10,510	—	9,253	9,925	—	11,590	13,480	—
May	5,799	6,862	—	8,328	9,688	—	8,699	9,710	—	7,556	8,185	—	12,678	14,182	—
June	6,115	7,109	—	9,263	10,442	—	10,623	11,433	—	8,481	9,216	—	13,940	15,572	—
July	2,814	3,197	—	4,510	4,935	—	4,663	4,958	—	4,340	4,760	—	6,761	7,351	—

M = Male
F = Female
I = Indeterminate
Note:
Multiple kits can be sent out to a single screening subject if their previous test kit(s) were, for example, a technical fail, spoilt, or a weak positive.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many completed faecal occult blood tests had positive results in each month since the start of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme, broken down by *(a)* screening hub and *(b)* sex. [223021]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows, as at 14 July 2008, the number of completed faecal occult blood tests with positive results since the start of the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme, broken down by screening hub and sex.

	London		Southern		Eastern		North East		Midlands and North West	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
2006										
July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
August	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	0
September	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	0	1
October	—	—	4	2	13	1	—	—	6	3
November	1	3	2	4	7	2	—	—	6	7
December	1	2	4	0	3	3	—	—	6	2
2007										
January	5	2	2	0	6	2	—	—	11	3
February	6	4	3	1	7	5	—	—	13	4
March	11	6	1	1	5	1	9	3	4	7
April	19	9	2	1	5	0	10	3	16	3
May	22	10	8	2	7	3	13	6	17	3
June	21	19	3	2	9	2	17	13	17	5
July	20	16	7	4	14	5	25	21	12	10
August	19	11	8	6	13	7	17	14	17	18
September	23	17	7	3	15	10	10	1	36	16
October	31	19	11	2	19	12	10	7	34	12

	London		Southern		Eastern		North East		Midlands and North West	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
November	33	21	12	1	22	8	15	10	28	10
December	25	24	9	5	20	9	13	4	21	8
2008										
January	46	35	20	8	25	17	11	8	46	17
February	39	24	9	8	25	18	25	8	22	16
March	27	15	9	4	40	16	22	6	22	6
April	46	25	22	15	36	23	32	19	43	33
May	45	32	25	22	53	28	30	19	36	35
June	45	24	33	24	64	43	29	18	52	36
July	24	10	14	9	20	11	11	10	21	12

Notes:
M = Male
F = Female
Multiple kits can be sent out to a single screening subject if their previous test kit(s) were, for example, a technical fail, spoilt, or a weak positive.

Cot Deaths: Research

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding his Department provided for research into sudden infant death syndrome in 2007-08; [223964]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on research into sudden infant death syndrome in the last 12 months. [223904]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's policy research programme and the National Institute for Health Research spent some £200,000 on projects concerned with sudden infant death syndrome in 2007-08.

Dementia

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the money allocated to health and social care spending in the next five years has been allocated for implementation of the National Dementia Strategy. [224492]

Phil Hope: A draft of a National Dementia Strategy was published on 19 June for consultation. The consultation closed on 11 September and we are currently considering carefully all the responses received before deciding the final shape of the strategy, and what resources are available to support its implementation. Funding will be announced around the same time when the strategy is published.

Dental Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued on the free provision of treatment by hygienists in NHS dental practices. [224463]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has issued no guidance on the free provision of treatment by hygienists in NHS dental practices. The NHS dental system ensures that patients are entitled to all treatment that is clinically needed which the patient is willing to undergo. Which dental professional delivers the treatment is a clinical matter for the practice not the NHS. Where dental hygienists are part of the team in the practice delivering NHS care that treatment will be free where either the patient is exempt from NHS charges or the treatment itself is free. This is not affected by whether the treatment is delivered by a hygienist or any other dental professional.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were charged extra dental treatment fees because a two-month period had elapsed between the start of their course of treatment and the end of that treatment in the most recent period for which figures are available; whether such fees may be charged when a patient could not get an appointment to continue treatment within two months; and if he will make a statement. [223764]

Ann Keen: Dentists are required to identify all care and treatment needed that the patient is willing to undergo at the start of treatment and include this within the treatment plan. A single charge covers all the interventions identified within that national health service treatment plan. This applies whatever the gaps between appointments within that course of treatment. Additionally, if within two months of the course of treatment ending the same provider determines that the patient requires further treatment which falls within the same or a lower charging band as the previous treatment no charge may be made in respect of that further treatment. This applies whether or not the treatment is delivered within two months of the previous course of treatment ending.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for a dental appointment to *(a)* receive an examination and *(b)* continue treatment was in (i) Wakefield district (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iii) England in the latest period for which figures are available. [223765]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to determine how best to manage patients seeking national health service dental services, and for dental providers to manage the delivery of a complete course of treatment.

However, increasing the number of patients seen within NHS dental services is now a formal priority in the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 and we have supported this with a very substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul flights. [222084]

Mr. Bradshaw: 2006-07 was the first year that the Department offset the emissions resulting from official air travel. In that year the total distance travelled by air, for which a payment was made to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund, was 3,620,190 km. We do not have data for this year broken down further.

In 2007-08 the distance travelled by air was as follows:

	Distance travelled (km)
Long haul	2,344,688
Short haul	927,695
Domestic	666,038

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether those staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [222090]

Mr. Bradshaw: Staff members are expected to travel in economy class when travelling by air. Travel expenses are reimbursed based on actual costs incurred and staff are expected to use the Department's travel contractor for ticket booking. Staff are not permitted to travel economy class and claim reimbursement for first class tickets, profiting from the difference. Further, any benefits or compensation obtained from business travel or similar activities is repaid to the Department and cannot be put to personal use, e.g. compensation offered by a travel company for delays in arriving at the destination.

All travel within the Department is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Department's staff expenses policy.

Departmental agencies apply similar rules. No member of staff should benefit in monetary terms or kind from any savings accruing from their travel arrangements.

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222093]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies has not newly occupied and refurbished any properties in the last 24 months.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many notifications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies made to the Information Commissioner following the loss or mishandling of personal information or data in each of the last three years; and what was notified in each case. [222903]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, has prepared details of its data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 for inclusion in its resource accounts. The Department expects these accounts to be laid before Parliament at the end of the current session. Before November 2007, the Information Commissioner's Office did not specifically keep records of instances of security breaches. I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in Government.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223059]

Mr. Bradshaw: The five most serious breaches of discipline in the Department in the last 12 months for which steps have been taken are presented in the following table:

Level of seriousness	*Nature of breach*	*Steps taken*
Serious misconduct	Internet misuse	Written warning
Serious misconduct	Falsification of records	Written warning
Absence case	Poor attendance	Absence warning
Absence case	Poor attendance	Absence warning
Performance case	Poor performance	Performance warning

There is also one case of possible gross misconduct—a charge of fraud—still outstanding for this period. This case has not yet been completed.

Departmental Homeworking

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 937W, on departmental home working, if he will make it his policy to collate and maintain central records of all home working by his Department's staff. [222474]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department already maintains central records of staff who are members of its official home working scheme. We do not intend to extend recording to cover staff who work at home on an occasional basis, at management discretion.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what types of data have been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222091]

Mr. Bradshaw: Core information produced by the Department and the NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency, which is central to their responsibilities and which is subject to Crown copyright, can be reused free of charge by applying for a Public Sector Information (PSI) Click-Use Licence administered by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has delegated authority from OPSI to administer crown copyright material on its behalf.

Data to which value is added by the Department to enhance and facilitate their use and effectiveness for the user are outside the remit of the PSI licence, and can be sold under a value added licence. The type of data sold by the Department in the last 12 months are health sector specific information on best practice and standards relating to the physical environment. The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency has not sold any data in the last 12 months, and MHRA has allowed some data relating to licensed products to be reused for a fee in the last 12 months.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the full-time equivalent headcount of his Department is; and how many of his Department's staff are assigned to work on *(a)* public health and *(b)* policies and programmes designed to achieve the Government's target that two million more people regularly participate in physical activity before the 2012 Olympic Games. [221893]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) civil servants in the Department on 30 June 2008 was 2,208.

The number of FTE staff working within the Public Health Division of the Health Improvement and Protection Directorate is 58 (as at 12 September 2008), which includes civil servants, consultancy support and secondees. The number of FTE staff working within the Health and Well-being Division of the Health Improvement and Protection Directorate is 86.1 (as at 12 September 2008). Again, this figure includes civil servants, consultancy support and secondees. In addition, each of the nine regional public health groups has a headcount of 17.6 FTE civil servants, including the regional director of public health. In the 2008-09 planning round the headcount for the regions totalled 150.8 with the difference relating to vacancies.

However, within the Health Improvement and Protection Directorate and across the Department, there are other teams engaged in aspects of public health work.

At 12 September 2008, the equivalent of 4.2 FTE staff work on policies and programmes designed to achieve the Government's target that 2 million more people regularly participate in physical activity before the 2012 Olympic Games. A further 1.0 FTE is currently being recruited. These figures include civil servants, consultancy support and secondees.

Furthermore, the Department has also assigned an envelope of funding to each of the nine regions for the comprehensive spending review period. In 2008-09 each Regional Public Health Group (RPHG) will receive £100,000 for physical activity. This will be used as each region sees best, to put in place action plans working with partner organisations and stakeholders, though each RPHG has been tasked by the Department to develop a regional 2012 Health Legacy Action Plan that complements the national Legacy Action Plan to deliver a 2012 health legacy. It is likely that a proportion of this funding will be used to secure additional capacity to take forward programmes.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which make and model of car he has chosen as his Ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217758]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222089]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not provide permanent residential accommodation for any of its civil servants.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222086]

Mr. Bradshaw: The purchasing system used by the Department until 30 June 2008 did hold names and addresses of its suppliers of goods and services, but this information is not easily distinguishable from the information relating to payments to patients, for professional services and to seconded staff. It is therefore not possible to place the information requested in the Library without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222087]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information in the table details the Department's expenditure on public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in the last 36 month period up to the end of the fiscal year 2007-08.

	£
	Expenditure
2005-06	76,796
2006-07	16,588
2007-08	23,320

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 193-4W, on departmental retirement, how many requests to work beyond the mandatory retirement age were received by his Department in each of the last four years. [222433]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of requests to work beyond the mandatory retirement age received by the Department in each of the last four years are given in the following table:

	Number
2007-08	0
2006-07	0
2005-06	1
2004-05	0

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [222092]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures on public authority use of covert techniques controlled by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') are published annually by the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner who each have particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the Library on 22 July. The figures provided in the reports are not broken down by individual public authority use of specific covert technique as, depending on the particular technique and authority using it, this could either reveal sensitivities or be misleading. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant Commissioner.

Direct Payments

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* Wakefield District have requested direct payments (i) for care provision for themselves and (ii) as a carer. [223767]

Dawn Primarolo: Table 1 shows the number of clients (aged 18 and over) receiving direct payments. Information is shown for England, for Yorkshire and the Humber region and for Wakefield council with Adult Social Services Responsibilities between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007. Table 2 shows the number of carers (aged 16 or over) receiving direct payments for carer's services at 31 March 2007. There is no information available on the numbers of people requesting direct payments.

Table 1: Number of clients aged 18 and over receiving direct payments 2006-07

	Rounded numbers
England	48,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,800
Wakefield	235

Source:
RAP proforma P2f

The England and Regional totals are estimates based on the figures from 150 P2f proformas received.

Table 2: Number of carers aged 16 and over receiving direct payments at 31 March 2007

	Rounded numbers
England[1]	5,200
Yorkshire and the Humber[2]	170
Wakefield	[3]

[1] Actual figures—19 councils in England did not submit data.
[2] Actual figures—one council in Yorkshire and the Humber did not submit data.
[3] Data less than six.
Source:
PSSEX1

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether a *(a)* carer and *(b)* care receiver is classified as an employer when receiving direct care payments and using them to secure the care services of other professionals; what legislation governs carers and care receivers in these circumstances; and if he will make a statement; [223768]

(2) what sources of assistance are available to carers and care receivers who decide not to apply for direct payments; [223769]

(3) what *(a)* targets and *(b)* guidelines there are for the period of time between a carer or care receiver making a request for direct payments and that request being implemented. [223770]

Dawn Primarolo: Both a care receiver and carer in receipt of direct payments are classified as employers when using the payments to secure the services of other professionals. They would have all the legal responsibilities of an employer and would need to ensure that they are aware of and comply with these responsibilities.

Councils should make it clear that a person does not have to receive direct payments. If a carer or care receiver decide not to have direct payments, their local council has an obligation to meet their needs, therefore the local council remains responsible for providing or arranging the provision of services they are assessed as needing. They should also discuss with people who are to receive direct payments what they should do if they no longer wish to receive direct payments.

The Department has not set any targets or deadlines for the period of time between a carer or care receiver making a request for direct payments and that request being implemented. This would be a local decision.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [222085]

Mr. Bradshaw: None.

Down's Syndrome

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many live births of children with Down's syndrome were recorded in each year for which records are available since 1980. [222580]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of live birth episodes recorded in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07 are given in the following table. Before 1997-08 problems with data quality of the maternity data mean that figures are not available.

The figure for each year shows the number of live born recorded births with a primary or secondary diagnosis of Down's syndrome which have taken place in a national health service hospital or in an unspecified location. It does not show births that have taken place in a location that is known to be outside of an NHS hospital setting.

	Live born birth episodes
2006-07	373
2005-06	361
2004-05	363
2003-04	312
2002-03	310
2001-02	286
2000-01	277
1999-2000	303
1998-99	271
1997-98	329

Notes:
1. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE): A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year. (Episode type used: 3—Birth event 6—Other Birth event)
2. Data Quality: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
3. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
4. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
5. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
6. Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis: These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in an HES record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
7. Down's syndrome codes used:
Q90.0—Trisomy 21, meiotic nondisjunction
Q90.1—Trisomy 21, mosaicism (mitotic nondisjunction)
Q90.--Trisomy 21, translocation
Q90.9—Down's syndrome, unspecified
8. Liveborn codes used:
Z38.0—Singleton, born in hospital
Z38.2—Singleton, unspecified as to place of birth
Z38.3—Twin, born in hospital
Z38.5—Twin, unspecified as to place of birth
Z38.6—Other multiple, born in hospital
Z38.8—Other multiple, unspecified as to place of birth
8. Ungrossed Data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
HES, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221841]

Mr. Bradshaw: Our records for contracts only go as far back as 2002 and some data can only be partially provided for the period before 2004. The information of the contracts that the Department of Health and its Executive Agencies have had with EDF since 2002 is as follows:

Organisation	*Dates*	*Amount (£)*	*Purpose*
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	October 2002 to September 2003	25,535	Electricity supply for Reading Office
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	October 2002 to September 2003	12,123	Electricity supply for Chester Office
Department of Health	October 2002 to October 2003	[1]—	Electricity supply for London Offices
Department of Health April	2006 to March 2007	194.58	Power supply to part of Richmond House
Department of Health	April 2007 to March 2008	210.66	Power supply to part of Richmond House

[1]Data not available

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or the administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222279]

Dawn Primarolo: As a matter of course, the management of European Union (EU) business rests with policy officials, throughout the Department, depending on the

range and type of active EU legislation being negotiated/administered. The Department has an EU coordination unit (six officials) which supports the handling of EU policy business. In addition to this unit, there is an overseas healthcare team (eight officials) responsible for the management of healthcare regulation/overseas payments to other EU member states.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned to monitor the incidence of primary bone cancer in populations receiving fluoridated water. [223845]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has commissioned research into the effects of fluoridation on health. A Systematic Review of Public Water Fluoridation published by the university of York in 2000 found no significant association between, water fluoridation and cancer, but called for further research to strengthen the evidence base. Section 58 of the Water Act 2003 placed a duty on strategic health authorities (SHAs) to monitor the effects of fluoridation schemes on the health of persons living in the fluoridated area and publish reports containing an analysis of the effects on health at four-yearly intervals. We have commissioned the West Midland Public Health Observatory to propose a set of standard indicators, which can be used by SHAs to discharge this duty. We understand that, in compiling its proposals, the Observatory is considering whether data on the incidence of bone cancer held in cancer registries could be included among the indicators.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the Minister of State's statement on his interview published with the BBC News website on 3 July 2008 that GPs are entering into gentlemen's agreements in order to restrict a patient's ability to change practice. [218304]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has received communications from members of the public citing examples of general practitioner (GP) surgeries that are not willing to accept other doctors' patients and thereby restricting patient choice. We do not consider that these practices are widespread but, where they do occur, they can cause significant concern to members of the public. The General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association has recently issued a statement, indicating that it too has been made aware of such examples and urging GP practices to ensure that this unacceptable practice does not occur.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were seen by a GP in each year since 1997. [223738]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

General Practitioners: Private Sector

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which GP contracts were awarded to private sector operators for *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [224439]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts are responsible for awarding general practice (GP) contracts to the providers that can offer the best quality and value for money services to meet local needs, including independent, voluntary and third sector organisations and entrepreneurial GPs. The Department does not routinely collect this information.

However, the Department is providing the local national health service with procurement support through the national Fairness in Primary Care initiative, for which nine contracts have been awarded in 2008; of which four were awarded to independent sector operators, three to GP-led organisations and two to social enterprises.

Information on Fairness in Primary Care contracts is in the following table.

PCT scheme	*Provider*	*Type of organisation*	*Date signed*
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	Central Nottingham Clinical Services	Social enterprise	2008
Hartlepool PCT	Intrahealth	Independent sector	2008
County Durham PCT	Blackball and Peterlee Practice	GP-led	2008
Bolton PCT	SSP Health	GP-led	2008
Ashton Leigh and Wigan PCT (Scheme B)	Intrahealth	Independent sector	2008
Ashton Leigh and Wigan PCT (Scheme C)	Integral health partnership	GP-led	2008
Ashton Leigh and Wigan PCT (Scheme D)	Intrahealth	Independent sector	2008
Luton PCT	SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association)	Social enterprise	2008
Manchester PCT	Care UK	Independent sector	2008

Genito-urinary Medicine

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to implement its commitment to develop the role of the sexual health adviser, as set out in the 2001 National Sexual Health and HIV Strategy. [224325]

Dawn Primarolo: In June 2008, the Department supported the publication of the document "Sexual Health Advising—Developing the Workforce", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

The guidance document is for sexual health advisers, higher education institutions, strategic and public health leads and commissioners on the implications of new arrangements for educational and practice preparation of sexual health advisers. This includes the opportunity for sexual health advisers to migrate to the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing Programme.

The guidance is the culmination of collaborative work led by the Department with the Society of Sexual Health Advisers, the union UNITE and the Nursing and Midwifery Council and fulfils the Government commitment in the 2001 National Sexual Health Strategy to develop the role of the sexual health adviser, including registration with a professional body and educational development.

Headaches: Medical Treatments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will request the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to complete its ONSTIM evaluation as quickly as possible. [222326]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is assessing occipital nerve stimulation for intractable headache under its Interventional Procedures Programme. This assessment is currently suspended, pending CE marking of the devices used to carry out the procedure. NICE will continue its assessment once this situation has changed.

Health Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to promote local activities to encourage healthy living. [222697]

Dawn Primarolo: In January 2008, the Government published the £372 million "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government Strategy for England". "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives" committed us to developing a three-year, £75 million, social marketing programme to help us all maintain a healthy weight.

As part of this programme, the Government are inviting everyone in society to join a national movement called Change4Life to help people maintain a healthy weight, by making it easier for parents to make healthier food choices and encourage more activity.

Over the past few months we have been developing a programme of events, briefings and media activities that will engage grassroots local 'activists'—the many people who are already running activities that help children eat well and be active. They have been invited to join the Change4Life movement, and by tapping into this existing energy and commitment, we will ensure that Change4Life is not just another healthy living campaign, but a hands-on, practical and supportive movement. It will be driven by ordinary people across society, who want to do something now to combat obesity and make lives healthier.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps the Government has taken to promote safety in the sun initiatives; [222700]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to educate the public on the risks to health of UV rays. [222701]

Dawn Primarolo: SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention and sun protection campaign, is run by Cancer Research UK, on behalf of the UK Health Departments. It raises awareness and educates the public on the risks to health from ultra violet rays, both artificial and from sunlight. The campaign works through high profile media programmes, through provision of resources and information for health promotion events and targeted campaigns, and through the SunSmart website. The main emphasis for the SunSmart campaign for this year is children and young people, with a focus on the risks to health of using sunbeds. The Department also funds the Meteorological Office to produce UV Index forecasts, which are disseminated to the media and published on the Meteorological Office website.

Health Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage healthy eating. [222698]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are currently working on several initiatives to encourage healthy eating, as outlined in the "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives" Strategy which has already been placed in the Library. These include:

working with industry leaders and other relevant stakeholders to develop and deliver a Healthy Food Code of Good Practice;

the 5-A-Day programme, which seeks to promote increased consumption of fruit and vegetables (preferably five each day) and sits alongside other initiatives aimed at reducing the amount of foods consumed that are high in salt, fat and sugar, and further promoting a healthy diet;

liaising with schools to develop and apply schemes to incorporate healthy eating within schools and families, such as the school fruit and vegetable scheme which provides children, aged four to six, with a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day; and

a comprehensive social marketing programme called Change4Life. The Government will invite all parts of society to join the movement, designed to help people maintain a healthy weight by helping parents make healthier food choices for their children and encouraging more activity. It will work in collaboration with other Government Departments, the NHS, schools, voluntary groups, and commercial and media partners.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the Government has made in raising awareness of the risks to health associated with hot weather, including dehydration. [222699]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department produces and disseminates to key health professionals a "National Heatwave Plan" which has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084670

along with supportive guidance for health professionals and social care staff. Additionally, a public facing leaflet is produced providing information on how to protect yourself and vulnerable people during a heatwave. Media messages are prepared in the event of a heatwave to raise awareness of protective actions.

Health Education: Families

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to educate families on nutrition and healthy living. [224287]

Dawn Primarolo: Health professionals are asked to offer pregnant women and families applying for the Healthy Start scheme with relevant advice on breastfeeding and healthy eating. Basic information on breastfeeding and healthy eating is also given in the Healthy Start user guide, welcome magazine sent to all new Healthy Start beneficiaries, and on the publicly available Healthy Start website.

The Government have committed £75 million to a three year marketing campaign, "Change4life Programme" which aims to provide families with the information, tools and support that they will need to help their children lead healthier lives. The programme will include a help line, website, printed information, advertising and public relations, specialist materials for ethnic minority communities and resources for professionals to use with the public. The campaign will address those areas—including healthy meal suggestions, ideas for family activity, tips and strategies for getting children to eat more healthily—where parents said they needed support and guidance.

On 21 March 2007, we launched Top Tips for Top Mums a new 5 A DAY-Just Eat More (Fruit and Veg) campaign to help families get more fruit and vegetable into their children's diets. The campaign aims to help families by sharing real tips from real mums on how they got their kids to eat more fruit and vegetables.

The Department also runs campaigns to motivate and support smokers to stop, and these are particularly targeted at routine and manual smokers, and their families. The messages through the motivation work focus on the impact of smoking on family life. For example, a new campaign was launched in June 2008, called 'Wanna be like you', which highlighted to parents that smoking will dramatically increase their children's chances of becoming smokers too.

Since September 2006, we have been running a social marketing programme to ensure that people know the consequences of drinking, by raising awareness of the importance of sensible drinking and making sure people know what units are and therefore know how much they are drinking.

The level of public concern about how much alcohol young people are drinking in their teenage years is growing. The Youth Alcohol Action Plan (YAAP) sets out the evidence that shows that there is reason to be concerned and how Government will address this issue.

Part of the YAAP is establishing a new partnership with parents. This includes providing them with advice and guidance concerning young people and alcohol, which will include clear guidelines about how consumption of alcohol can affect children and young people produced by the Chief Medical Officer, and evaluation of family based interventions to assess if they are improving outcomes and reducing risks with those affected by alcohol misusing parents.

Health Professions: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* midwives are employed by the NHS per head of population in Ribble Valley constituency. [222953]

Ann Keen: The information is not held in the format requested. Information on workforce levels for East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT), which is the main commissioner for the Ribble Valley population, is shown in the following table.

NHS doctors[1], nurses and midwives within specified organisations as at 30 September 2007

Organisation	*Doctors*	*Nurses*	*Midwives*
East Lancashire PCT	273	741	3

[1] Includes General Practitioners (GPs) and hospital and community health services medical and dental staff. GPs exclude retainers.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

Health Professions: Manpower

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* consultants, *(d)* dentists and *(e)* midwives there were in each year since 1998. [221884]

Ann Keen: The number of doctors, nurses, consultants, and midwives there were in each year since 1998 is shown in the following table.

The numbers of national health service dentists in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Table 4 of the 'NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006'. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on primary care trust (PCT) lists as at 31 March each year. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

The numbers of dentists in England with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March 2007 and 2008 are available in Table 32 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08' report. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708.

Further work is planned over the next 12 months to determine whether the new definition used under the new dental contractual arrangements can be applied to the years under the old contractual arrangements to produce a consistent time series.

Both reports have been published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Total number of doctors, consultants, nurses and midwives

At 30 September	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Headcount 2007
All doctors (excl retainers)	91,837	93,981	96,319	99,169	103,350	108,993	117,036	122,345	125,612	127,645
Of which consultants (including directors of public health)	22,324	23,321	24,401	25,782	27,070	28,750	30,650	31,993	32,874	33,674
Total qualified nursing staff	323,457	329,637	335,952	350,381	367,520	386,359	397,515	404,161	398,335	399,597
Of which registered midwife	22,793	22,776	22,548	23,027	23,208	23,922	24,822	24,784	25,430	25,069

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* NHS doctors, *(b)* NHS nurses, *(c)* NHS dentists and *(d)* GPs were employed in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England in each year since 1997. [223737]

Ann Keen: The number of doctors, nurses and general practitioners is shown in the table.

The majority of national health service dentists are self-employed.

The number of NHS dentists, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Information is available by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA). Equivalent information by constituency is available in Annex G of this report.

This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08" report. Information is available by PCT and SHA. Information by constituency is not available.

This measure is based on a revised methodology and is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This measure counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708.

Both reports have been published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in England, the north east strategic health authority area and each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

	1997[1]	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002[2]	2003	2004	2005	2006	Headcount 2007
England	300,467	304,563	310,142	316,752	330,535	346,537	364,692	375,371	381,257	374,538	376,737
of which											
North east strategic health authority area	17,791	18,079	18,870	19,125	20,035	20,473	20,991	22,065	22,291	22,220	22,296
of which											
Total specified organisations	2,036	2,055	2,078	2,087	2,142	1,738	1,778	1,878	1,924	1,840	1,851
South Tyneside PCT	—	—	—	—	—	180	185	251	241	235	253
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	905	854	899	891	916	615	624	625	639	612	550
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	1,131	1,201	1,179	1,196	1,226	943	969	1,002	1,044	993	1,048

Notes:
[1] In 1997 Gateshead Hospitals NHS Trust and Gateshead Healthcare NHS Trust merged to form Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust. 1997 figures are an aggregate of these two predecessor organisations.
[2] In 2002 Mental Health Services from South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust and Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust migrated to form part of Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland Mental Health NHS Trust.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census

HCHS medical and dental staff[1,2]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
England	60,230	62,140	63,994	66,067	68,484	72,168	76,490	82,951	87,043	90,243	91,790
North East SHA	3,548	3,542	3,749	3,953	4,053	4,178	4,330	4,699	4,764	4,942	5,145
of which											

HCHS medical and dental staff[1,2]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
RR7 Gateshead Health NHS Trust	[3]—	206	199	210	209	208	235	248	267	264	283
RM7 Gateshead Healthcare NHS Trust	31	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
RE2 Gateshead Hospitals NHS Trust	148	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
RE9 South Tyneside Health Care NHS Trust	141	131	157	176	242	218	220	231	137	145	163
5KG South Tyneside PCT	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	13	10	10	9	9	9

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.
[2] Data as at 30 September each year.
[3] Denotes data not available.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical & Dental Workforce census

All practitioners (excluding GP retainers) for selected organisations, 1997 to 2007

Numbers (headcount)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
England	29,389	29,697	29,987	30,252	30,685	31,182	32,593	34,085	35,302	35,369	35,855
North East	1,485	1,506	1,520	1,536	1,603	1,645	1,741	1,825	1,873	1,995	1,945
5KG South Tyneside PCT	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	87	87	91	93	104	108	105

[1] Denotes data not applicable.
Notes:
1. Data as at 1 October 1997-1999, 30 September 2000 to 2007.
2. Prior to 2006 figures for the north east were arrived at by combining County Durham and Tees Valley SHA and Northumberland Tyne and Wear SHA. From 2006 onwards north east SHA has been used.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Health Visitors

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms there are to record the timing and frequency of visits made by health visitors to families with children under the age of five years. [223982]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Healthy Start Scheme

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the Healthy Start Scheme since its inception; and what the take-up has been of the scheme in each region. [221913]

Dawn Primarolo: Total expenditure on Healthy Start across the United Kingdom between April 2007 and March 2008 (the only financial year for which specific figures are available) was approximately £94 million. This figure does not reflect the full cost of all Healthy Start vouchers issued in that year because retailers have up to six months from the use by date on vouchers to claim payment for them.

The following table shows the estimated number of families supported by Healthy Start in each national health service region in England between 4 August 2008 and 31 August 2008. It also shows the number of individual women and children receiving vouchers in these families.

Region	*Families*	*Individuals*
East Midlands	25,713	32,828
East of England	27,334	34,276
London	73,900	93,168
North East	21,208	26,320
North West	51,075	64,206
South East	36,984	46,395
South West	23,402	29,544
West Midlands	42,320	54,281
Yorkshire and the Humber	35,658	45,110
England total	337,594	426,128

Note:
These figures were provided by the Healthy Start Issuing Unit. Most families will have been supported throughout the whole four-week period, but some will have joined or left the scheme part way through. 16,000 families (19,000 individuals) across the UK who were receiving vouchers during this time could not be matched to a specific country or NHS region using the NHS postcode directory and so are not reflected in this table.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many retailers in *(a)* Barnsley, *(b)* Doncaster, *(c)* South Yorkshire and *(d)* England are registered to accept Healthy Start Scheme vouchers. [222153]

Dawn Primarolo: On 23 July 2008, the Healthy Start registered retailer database contained 76 individual retail outlets in Barnsley, 173 in Doncaster, and approximately 720 in South Yorkshire. Around 24,500 individual outlets accept vouchers across England as a whole.

Healthy Start Scheme: Yorkshire and the Humber

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many families in Yorkshire and the Humber have signed up for the Healthy Start Scheme; and how the scheme is being promoted in Yorkshire and the Humber. [222154]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of people supported by Healthy Start fluctuates from week to week as families apply or cease to qualify. The scheme supported around 35,600 families in Yorkshire and the Humber between 4 August 2008 and 31 August 2008. This is the most recent four week period for which figures are available.

The Department ensures that information about Healthy Start is included in Government leaflets about the qualifying benefits and tax credits, and in the Pregnancy and Birth to Five books routinely given to first time pregnant women and new mothers by midwives. The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services asks midwives and other health care professionals to signpost the scheme. We produce a range of posters, application leaflets, and other resources which NHS and other organisations can order in bulk for local use and we encourage our network of nominated Healthy Start contacts in every primary care trust to order these. General practitioner surgeries participating in the Waiting Room Information Services initiative also receive their own stocks of the application leaflets. All families with children under four years old notified by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs as newly qualifying for Healthy Start receive a personal invitation from the Healthy Start Issuing Unit to apply for the scheme, followed by two further reminders at four-weekly intervals if they do not take up the offer.

Hearing Impaired: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of deaf children in England; and on what methodology his estimate is based. [222991]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of deaf children in England is not collected centrally. Instead, data are collected on the number of children who are registered as deaf or hard of hearing. Inclusion on the register is voluntary and therefore, does not provide a complete picture of the number of children in England who are deaf or hard of hearing.

As at 31 March 2007, 3,400 people aged 0-17 years were registered as deaf in England (4,100 were registered as hard of hearing).

The data are collected every three years on the 'SSDA910 Register of People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing' by councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities.

One council did not provide data and therefore an estimate was calculated based on their previous return in 2004 and the change seen nationally.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged 18 years and under received *(a)* unilateral and *(b)* bilateral cochlear implants in each year since 2001, broken down by primary care trust. [222992]

Dawn Primarolo: Unfortunately, Hospital Episode Statistics cannot provide these data by primary care trust as the data would need to be suppressed due to small numbers, therefore providing little information. Instead a break down provided by strategic health authority of residence has been placed in the Library.

Hepatitis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* primary diagnosis count and *(b)* all diagnosis count of finished consultant episodes for all hepatitis B-related conditions was in each year since 1997-98 for all (i) inpatients and (ii) outpatients as recorded by the Hospital Episodes Statistics database, broken down by primary care trust area; and which hepatitis B-related 4-character diagnosis codes are covered by the Hospital Episodes Statistics database. [222420]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested for in-patients has been placed in the Library, for years 1997-98 to 2006-07. However, outpatient data are not included as clinical coding is not mandatory for the out-patients dataset and coverage is very low.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many notifications of hepatitis B have been made to the Health Protection Agency and its predecessor bodies; and what estimate he has made of the overall prevalence of hepatitis B *(a)* in England in total and *(b)* in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [222421]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested about notifications of hepatitis B is shown in the following table.

The Department estimates that about 0.3 per cent. of the United Kingdom population is chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (about 180,000 people)[2]. Estimates of hepatitis B prevalence at primary care trust level are not available.

Statutory notifications of hepatitis B in England: 1997 to 2007

	Number of hepatitis B notifications[1]
1997	670
1998	813
1999	817
2000	985
2001	970
2002	1,014
2003	1,097
2004	1,134
2005	1,239
2006	1,061
2007	1,123

[1] Hepatitis B is notifiable under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988.

[2] The increase in statutorily notified cases of hepatitis B is considered to be due primarily to reports of chronic hepatitis B cases detected through increased patient testing as part of clinical investigation and screening. The increase coincided with the introduction of universal antenatal testing for hepatitis B.

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department *(a)* has issued and *(b)* plans to issue to primary care trusts regarding the management of hepatitis B services. [222422]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has issued a number of guidance documents to the national health service about hepatitis B services. Copies have been placed in the Library and are also available on the following websites:

Department of Health:

Addendum to HSG (93)40: Protecting healthcare workers and patients from hepatitis B—EL (96)77(1996)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicationsAndStatistics/LettersAndCirculars/ExecutiveLetters/DH_4088385);

Children in need and bloodborne viruses: HIV and hepatitis (January 2002)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Closedconsultations/DH_4073041);

Good practice guidelines for renal dialysis/transplantation units: prevention and control of blood-borne virus infection (September 2002)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4005752);

Guidance for clinical healthcare workers: protection against infection with blood-borne viruses (April 1998)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4002766);

Health clearance for tuberculosis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV: new healthcare workers (March 2007)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_073132)

Hepatitis B infected health care workers and antiviral therapy (March 2007)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_073164);

Hepatitis B infected healthcare workers: Guidance on implementation of Health Service Circular 2000/020 (June 2000)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4008156);

Hepatitis B immunisation of homosexual and bisexual men attending GUM clinics: provision of extra vaccine (June 2002)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_4010113);

HSC 1998/127: Screening of pregnant women for hepatitis B and immunisation of babies at risk (July 1998)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Healthservicecirculars/DH_4004295)

Immunisation against infectious disease—The Green Book (includes a chapter on hepatitis B) (October 2007)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/Immunisation/Greenbook/dh_4097254);

Information for midwives: hepatitis B testing in pregnancy (January 2002)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4007742);

Screening for infectious diseases in pregnancy: Standards to support the UK antenatal screening programme (August 2003)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4059934); and

The national strategy for sexual health and HIV—Implementation action plan (June 2002)

(www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4006374).

Connecting for Health:

Extending the childhood immunisation data collected through the COVER (cover of vaccination evaluated rapidly) system by the Health Protection Agency: uptake of hepatitis B immunisation in babies born to infected mothers (DSC Notice 25/2004) (November 2004)

(www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/dscn/dscn2004/252004.pdf);

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse:

Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management (includes advice about hepatitis B) (September 2007)

(www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/documents/clinical_guidelines_2007.pdf).

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published technology appraisal (TA) guidance on the treatment of chronic hepatitis B (TA 96, TA 153 and TA 154).

The Department is not currently planning further guidance to the NHS about hepatitis B but keeps this under review, including in the light of advice from its expert scientific advisory committees, the Advisory Group on Hepatitis and the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* technology appraisals, *(b)* interventional guidelines, *(c)* clinical guidelines and *(d)* public health guidelines which have an effect on hepatitis B services are issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE); what effect each has on hepatitis B; on what date each was issued; which workstreams under consideration by NICE have an effect on hepatitis B services; and if he will make a statement. [222423]

Dawn Primarolo: The following technology appraisals have been issued by National Institute for Health and Clinical Service (NICE):

"Adefovir dipivoxil and pegylated interferon alpha-2a for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B" (22 February 2006).

"Entecavir for the treatment of hepatitis B" (27 August 2008)

"Telbivudine for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B" (27 August 2008)

Copies of the technology appraisals have been placed in the Library and are available on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA96/QuickRefGuide/pdf/English,

www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA153/Guidance/pdf/English and

www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA154/QuickRefGuide/pdf/English.

A technology appraisal on tenofovir disoproxil fumarate for the treatment of hepatitis B will be published in May 2009. It was formally referred to NICE's workstream to appraise its clinical and cost effectiveness.

There are no published clinical guidelines or guidelines in development that directly address the management of hepatitis B services. However, "Drug Misuse, psychological interventions" (July 2007) addresses the need for those who misuse drugs to reduce their exposure to blood-borne viruses where hepatitis B testing is recommended. A copy of this guidance has been placed in the Library and is available on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/CG051NICEguideline2.pdf

NICE is currently preparing the following public health guidelines, which are relevant to hepatitis B services:

"Needle and syringe programmes: providing injecting equipment to people who will inject drugs" (to be published in February 2009)

"Guidance on differences in the uptake of immunisations (including targeted vaccines) in people younger than 19" (to be published in June 2009)

There are no relevant interventional guidelines, which will have an effect on hepatitis B services.

These technology appraisal and guidelines for those involved in the management of hepatitis B services will promote good practice in the treatment and prevention of hepatitis B infection.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drugs were dispensed for the treatment of hepatitis B in each year since 1997, broken down by primary care trust area; and what the net ingredient cost of the drugs was in each year. [222424]

Dawn Primarolo: A significant number of primary care trusts dispensed less that 50 items each year in the community, in England. Releasing actual figures may potentially allow the identification of individual patients. Below are national dispensing figures with net ingredient cost (NIC).

Number and NIC of prescription items used in the treatment of hepatitis B which were dispensed in the community in England

	Number of items (thousand)	*NIC (£000)*
1998	8.8	2,070.2
1999	7.3	1,730.5
2000	6.9	1,508.0
2001	6.4	1,384.7
2002	6.1	1,144.7
2003	6.2	1,168.9
2004	6.6	1,257.9
2005	7.3	1,330.3
2006	8.6	1,608.9
2007	10.2	1,999.8

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA)

Herbal Medicine: EU Law

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact upon the *(a)* Chinese and *(b)* ayurvedic medicinal traditions of the requirement that 15 years use within the European Union must be demonstrated as being part of the qualifying minimum period of 30 years traditional use required for registration of herbal remedies under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; what representations he has received from the (i) Chinese and (ii) Indian communities on these matters; what assessment he has made of whether these geographic requirements comply with the United Kingdom's obligations under international human rights and trade treaties; and if he will make a statement. [221880]

Dawn Primarolo: Our understanding from discussions between the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the herbal medicine sector is that much of practice in traditional Chinese and Ayurvedic medicine is based on products prepared to meet individual patient needs. The main regulatory route for such herbal medicines in the United Kingdom would be through the provision of section 12(1) of the Medicines Act 1968 rather than traditional herbal registration scheme set up under European Directive 2004/24/EC.

It is likely that it would be possible in some cases for an applicant seeking a product registration under the traditional herbal registration scheme to demonstrate that a traditional Chinese or Ayurvedic medicinal product had had sufficient usage in the European Union (EU) for at least 15 years. There is also a provision in the directive under which the Herbal Medicinal Products Committee at the European Medicines Agency can lower the 15 years requirement in specific cases where all other requirements of the scheme are met.

We recognise that it is necessary to require demonstration of an adequate period of traditional use, given that this is the basis for lifting or easing a number of the normal requirements in medicines regulation in relation to the demonstration of efficacy and safety. However, we would like to see greater flexibility over the requirement for evidence of usage specifically within the EU. We have received a variety of representations on this issue over a period from a number of interested parties such as businesses and practitioner representatives. These have generally argued the case that the specific requirement for evidence of 15 years use within the EU is unduly onerous. The UK is not in position to set aside the provisions of a European Directive. The MHRA presented the case for changing the European legislative requirements in responding to the European Commission's consultation in 2007 on the early operation of the directive and also alerted interested parties to the opportunity to comment. We await the outcome of that review.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to assist small and medium-sized businesses which are specialist manufacturers and retailers of traditional herbal remedies to meet the costs of compliance with the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive and related measures. [221882]

Dawn Primarolo: Compliance costs of the traditional herbal registration (THR) scheme fall largely on manufacturers and wholesalers rather than retailers. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has been running an extensive programme to manage the impact of the THR scheme. This has included well over 100 meetings held free of charge to help companies progress their plans and applications. The MHRA has taken a range of measures to help companies, for example publication of public assessment reports on registration granted, and has also issued a range of pragmatic guidance, for example on how companies can use monographs published by the European Herbal Medicinal Products Committee to mitigate the effects of delay in development of the Community positive list. The MHRA regularly meets the industry's Herbal Forum to discuss progress of the THR scheme and whether there is further action that either MHRA or industry itself can take to facilitate progress. Recently two specialist small or medium sized businesses achieved their first grants of THR, demonstrating the possibilities for this kind of company.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has made of the number of herbal remedies marketed in the United Kingdom under the provisions of section 12(2) of the Medicines Act 1968; for how many and what percentage of those products an application has been received by the Agency for registration under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; and what the legal status will be of those products for which applications for registration have not been received by the end of the transition period in 2011; [222349]

(2) what his objective is in relation to the future availability of safe and proper herbal remedies; and what steps he is taking to achieve that objective; [222350]

(3) when Ministers of his Department last visited the facilities of small and medium-sized manufacturers of specialist herbal remedies to discuss the impact upon their business of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [222351]

(4) what steps he has taken to establish whether chromatographic fingerprinting is an appropriate requirement in the testing of multi-ingredient herbal remedies in relation to registration under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; and what estimate he has made of the cost of commissioning such tests for a single product containing several herbal ingredients. [222352]

Dawn Primarolo: Companies are not required to notify the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) of products marketed under section 12(2) of the Medicines Act 1968, therefore no estimates are available in relation to these products. Following the expiry of the transitional period permitted under Directive 2004/24/EC manufactured herbal medicines placed on the market will require either a marketing authorisation or a traditional herbal registration (THR). As now there will continue to be some herbal products that potentially can be placed on the market either as medicinal products or under other product regulatory regimes depending on their presentation.

The Government's objective in relation to over the counter herbal medicines is that the public should have access to a range of herbal medicines made to assured standards of safety and quality and accompanied by systematic information about the safe use of the product. The previous regulatory arrangements for unlicensed herbal remedies marketed under section 12(2) left companies free to decide whether to meet any standards and put responsible companies, and in particular those with specialist expertise wishing to operate to high standards, at a significant disadvantage. Consumers were unable to tell which products were made to acceptable standards. The MHRA will continue to operate the THR scheme in a proportionate way, in line with the principles of better regulation. Thereby we expect to see a competitive market offering consumers a wide range of licensed and registered herbal medicines.

Chromatographic fingerprinting is an accepted methodology in the analysis of herbal products and has been included in European Guidelines and the European Pharmacopoeia since the early 1990s. With regard to multi-ingredient herbal medicinal products it is recognised that identification and assay of individual herbal ingredients in the herbal product is difficult to perform and sometimes impossible. The European Herbal Medicinal Product Committee has recently developed a guideline, in consultation with industry, which addresses the issue of multi-ingredient herbal products. The guideline states that if testing for identity, assay or to demonstrate stability cannot be performed in the herbal product, alternative strategies may be considered. The guideline refers to appropriate fingerprint chromatograms, appropriate overall methods of assay and physical or other appropriate tests. The applicant is therefore able to select appropriate methods and justify their use.

In its regulatory impact assessment of the THR scheme the MHRA estimated that typically the overall costs of registering a product under the scheme, which includes the cost of conducting appropriate quality testing, could be several tens of thousand pounds. The impact assessment also recognised that the figure would vary widely according to specific circumstances, not least, depending on whether companies already had systematic quality control systems in place. This assessment has not changed.

I recently met a small manufacturer of herbal medicines. The MHRA has had well over a hundred meetings with companies, including small and medium sized businesses, to discuss the progress of actual or prospective applications under the THR scheme. The MHRA has also undertaken a number of site visits.

HIV Infection

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans formally to include HIV within the schedule of long-term conditions covered by the recommendations of the NHS Next Stage Review. [221822]

Dawn Primarolo: Long term conditions are currently defined as those that cannot at present be cured, but can be controlled by medication and other therapies. The widespread use of combination anti-retroviral therapies to control HIV, means the infection is now managed largely as a long-term condition. By 2010, all people with a long term condition, including those with HIV will be offered a personalised care plan, as recommended in the NHS Next Stage Review.

HIV Infection: Health Services

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of foreign nationals who have come to the UK for the sole purpose of accessing free HIV treatment on the NHS in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [222414]

(2) what information his Department gathers on the number of *(a)* asylum seekers, *(b)* those of uncertain residency status and *(c)* other migrants who have accessed NHS HIV testing services in the last five years. [222415]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to provide the information requested. Successive governments have not required the national health service to provide statistics on the number of foreign nationals seen, treated or charged under the provisions of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, nor any costs involved.

Hospitals: Accidents

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients experienced a fall in hospital in each health authority in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex; and if he will make a statement; [222233]

(2) what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to prevent patient falls in hospital; what recent representations he has received on the issue; what reply he gave; and if he will make a statement. [222234]

Ann Keen: The following table sets out the incident data in relation to patient falls for each English strategic health authority from the 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007. The incidents summarised in the table have been drawn from the National Patient Safety Agency's (NPSA) National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS). Age and gender are not mandatory fields in the NRLS. It is, therefore, not possible to determine whether the data reflect the true pattern of those patient characteristics.

The data prior to January 2006 have not been included due to the low number of reports received by the NPSA and issues regarding the quality of data.

Steps taken to prevent falls in hospitals include the following:

The NPSA issued a report 'Slips, trips and falls in hospital' in February 2007. This included six recommendations to ensure that efforts by hospitals to prevent patient falls are as effective as possible. The Healthcare Commission is reviewing how well trusts are meeting these recommendations in their current round of random and targeted inspections.

In February 2007 the NPSA also produced a Safer Practice Notice 'Using bedrails safely and effectively' to help hospitals prevent falls from bed. This included additional resources such as awareness raising posters, staff education materials, and patient leaflets.

The Department makes available best practice guidance, Health Technical Memorandum 61: 'Flooring' (latest edition published in February, 2006). This provides guidance on suitable floor finishes in hospitals and includes information on slip resistance. A copy has been placed in the Library.

In addition, in March 2007, the Health and Safety Executive developed the guidance 'Assessing the slip resistance of flooring. A technical information sheet'. This is intended to assist organisations including the national health service to assess pedestrian slip risks.

The Department has not received any representations on this issue.

Incidents categorised as falls occurring January 2006 to December 2007, by SHA region, as of 4 August 2008

SHA region	*Total*
2006	
North East Strategic Health Authority	11,217
North West Strategic Health Authority	29,595
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	22,257
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	14,276
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	16,538
East of England Strategic Health Authority	19,364
London Strategic Health Authority	21,941
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	14,745
South Central Strategic Health Authority	13,511
South West Strategic Health Authority	21,960
Total	185,404
2007	
North East Strategic Health Authority	13,255
North West Strategic Health Authority	29,665
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	22,848
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	14,182
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	18,301
East of England Strategic Health Authority	20,757
London Strategic Health Authority	25,908
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	13,137
South Central Strategic Health Authority	14,750
South West Strategic Health Authority	24,112
Total	196,915

Note:
These results exclude anonymously submitted reports, reports from community pharmacies, NHS Direct and from one organisation whose SHA could not be readily determined due to mergers that have taken place.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether healthcare associated infections (HAIs) are always included on death certificates of those patients who die in NHS hospitals subsequent to contracting a HAI; and if he will make a statement. [221824]

Ann Keen: Healthcare associated infections (HCAI) (such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) or *Clostridium difficile* infection) should, like all other illnesses, injuries, and complications of treatment, be included on a death certificate if the certifying doctor considers they contributed to the death directly or indirectly. Patients who die with a HCAI often have several other serious and potentially fatal underlying medical conditions.

The Chief Medical Officer has previously written to all doctors to remind them of their responsibility to provide appropriate information on HCAIs on death certificates and of guidance issued by the Office for National Statistics on death certification. The latest reminder was sent in October 2007.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* guidance, *(b)* circulars and *(c)* statutory instruments were issued between (i) 1979 and 1997 and (ii) 1997 and 2002 on the control of healthcare-acquired infections; what (A) ministerial statements and (B) press notices on the subject were issued between 1997 and 2008; and if he will make a statement. [222238]

Ann Keen: The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take during the next 12 months to improve hospital cleanliness in (i) Southend-on-Sea, (ii) Essex and (iii) the Metropolitan Police area of London; and if he will make a statement. [222239]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has given a strong public commitment to improving hospital cleanliness and has in place a comprehensive programme of work to improve hospital cleanliness.

At the national level steps taken to improve cleanliness include;

a deep-clean of all hospitals during 2007-2008 which will enable trusts' strategic and operational cleaning plans to make provision for ongoing deep cleaning activity, all NHS bodies being subject to the Health Act 2006 Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, which came into force on 1 October 2006.

Here, the Healthcare Commission (HCC) inspects against the duties set out in the Code, which require them to have appropriate management and clinical governance systems in place to deliver effective infection control. In April this year, specialist HCC inspections began against the Code, thus ensuring that acute trusts will be inspected every year on the cleanliness of the environment.

the HCC's annual 'healthcheck' assessing against three national core standards which relate to cleanliness,

a national Cleanliness Summit held in February 2008, hosted by the NHS Chief Executive,

Patient environment action teams (PEAT), assessing the quality of the environment, (including cleanliness),

HCC's annual inpatient survey includes questions about cleanliness of the wards and of toilets,

at the end of May 2008, there were 5000 matrons in hospitals with more powers over cleaning,

the Department worked with the National Patient Safety Agency to issue a revised national specifications for Cleanliness in the NHS for hospitals in 2007,

an annual NHS spend on cleaning that has increased year on year since data collection began in 2000, the 2007-08 total spend being £720 million.

In the future, the Department will ensure that the momentum and operational focus on cleanliness will continue, steps specifically include;

the development of a new national standard for monitoring cleanliness in healthcare environments. This work, which will be carried out under the auspices of the British Standards Institute, will focus in the first instance on hospitals in England, and will be developed by leading experts in the field of healthcare cleaning. A draft standard is anticipated by April 2009, in time for the establishment of the Care Quality Commission and its new regulation assessment.

compiling a compendium of good practice case studies arising from the Deep Clean initiative, (to be published this autumn),

issuing a national specification for cleanliness relating to GP surgeries and ambulances, (to be published this autumn),

reviewing the comprehensive NHS Healthcare Cleaning Manual (April 2004), to publish a revised version in summer 2009,

joint working between with the NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency that will continue to look at new technologies for cleaning.

Steps taken in Southend-on-Sea, Essex and the Greater London area to improve hospital cleanliness, reflect the national initiatives set out above. More detail of cleanliness-related action in these particular areas is available from the relevant strategic health authority.

Source:

Estates Return Information Collection [ERIC] system.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals have been fined for poor control of hospital infection in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [222240]

Ann Keen: A new standard NHS contract was introduced for 2008-09, covering agreements between primary care trusts (PCTs) and providers of general and acute services.

As set out in the Clean, Safe Care strategy, one element of the contract is the requirement for providers to achieve the target reduction in the rate of C. difficile agreed with PCTs. The contract provides for measures to remedy any failure to achieve the required improvements and ultimately for a financial sanction if the failure continues.

It is up to PCTs, as commissioners, to decide whether they want to exercise their power to fine providers and we do not hold this information centrally.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations have powers to inspect hospitals for cleanliness; and if he will make a statement. [222241]

Dawn Primarolo: All national health service bodies are subject to the Health Act 2006: Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections (commonly known as the Hygiene Code), which came into force on 1 October 2006. The Healthcare Commission (HCC) inspects hospital cleanliness against the duties set out in the code and has the power to issue an 'improvement notice', when it considers an NHS body is failing to observe the code. In addition to its scrutiny of trusts' annual declarations of their own assessments of the measures they have in place to meet the code, last year, the HCC made 120 unannounced visits to assess compliance independently. To strengthen this process, since April 2008, specialist teams from the HCC have been carrying out an annual infection control inspections programme of all acute trusts in the context of the code's requirements. The HCC plans to publish a summary report of some key emerging findings from these inspections shortly.

Additionally, the HCC's annual 'healthcheck' procedure includes three national core standards set by the Department, (C4a, C4c and C21) which relate to cleanliness. The HCC assesses against these standards and it publishes the results.

Also, under the auspices of the National Patient Safety Agency, patient environment action teams, assess the quality of the environment, (including cleanliness), of every inpatient health care facility in England with more than 10 beds. The assessment takes place on a voluntary basis and leads to ratings of; excellent, good, acceptable, poor or unacceptable.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received since June 2007 on the use of ward sisters in relation to cleanliness on hospital wards; from whom those representations have been received; what response he gave; if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* the representations received and *(b)* the replies given; and if he will make a statement. [222242]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not received any formal representations on the issue of ward sisters in relation to cleanliness on hospital wards.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* c. difficile infection there were in (i) Wexham Park Hospital and (ii) Upton Hospital in each year since 1997. [222296]

Mr. Bradshaw: The best source of data is the mandatory surveillance system for acute trusts. Surveillance of meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood

stream infections (bacteraemia) started in April 2001 and surveillance for *Clostridium difficile* infection began in January 2004. Data are therefore not available before these times. Wexham Park hospital is part of Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the data for the trust are shown in the following tables. Data are not available for Upton hospital as it is not an acute trust.

MRSA bacteraemia reports: Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals

April to March each year	*Number*
2001-02	47
2002-03	28
2003-04	32
2004-05	29
2005-06	32
2006-07	22
2007-08	16

Number of C. difficile reports for patients >65 years: Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals

January to December each year	*Number*
2004	289
2005	259
2006	302
2007	234

Note:
All data are provisional.
Source:
Health Protection Agency.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average length of time spent on waiting lists by patients who were transferred from one NHS hospital to another NHS hospital when the first hospital was unable to perform an operation in the latest period for which figures are available; what steps his Department is taking to reduce such waiting lists; and if he will make a statement. [222324]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally.

By the end of December 2008, no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner to the start of their treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer. The 18-week target applies equally to those patients who need to transfer between hospitals while they are on their 18-week pathway.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the unit cost of Cervarix is; how many units his Department is purchasing; and what the value of the contract is. [222425]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested on the unit cost, number of units and value of the contract for Cervarix is commercially confidential. The contract will allow the Department to purchase sufficient vaccine to vaccinate all the identified cohorts of girls eligible for the Human Papilloma virus vaccine under the national programmes in the United Kingdom.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the basis is for the efficiency assumption described on page 16 of his Department's impact assessment of proposals relating to Part IX of the Drug Tariff; [221819]

(2) with reference to the impact assessment of his Department's proposals on Part IX of the Drug Tariff, what assessment he has made of the likely effect of a cap on reimbursement payments on contractor efficiency; and what factors were taken into account in deciding on 50,000 items as the cap on reimbursement; [221820]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on patient choice of his Department's proposals to impose a capped payment structure for the reimbursement of stoma and incontinence items; [221821]

(4) whether he plans to extend the imposition of a three per cent., reduction in remuneration as referred to in his Department's proposals relating to Part IX of the Drug tariff to other NHS suppliers. [222759]

Dawn Primarolo: No explicit assumption on contractors' ability to secure greater efficiency has been made by the Department. What has been suggested is that the national health service annual efficiency targets should be shared by dispensing contractors as well.

The 50,000 items cap has been raised significantly from previous proposals. For instance, in September 2007 the cap was set at 30,000 items. The cap does not apply to payment for specific services but to the infrastructure payment that has been proposed. The infrastructure payment is intended to contribute towards the cost of elements of essential service provision which are not directly linked to dispensing a prescription item; for instance, operating within a clinical governance framework.

In the consultation entitled "Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care June 2008" there are no proposals relating to a capped payment structure for the reimbursement of stoma and incontinence items.

However, subject to the outcome of the consultation, patient choice could be increased as proposals regarding remuneration for service relate not only to the 100-plus dispensing appliance contractors but also to the 10,000 plus pharmacy contractors.

The consultation document proposes that a uniform price reduction of two per cent., should be applied to all catheters listed in Part IXA—and for items listed in Part IXB and Part IXC.

No reduction in remuneration for services has been proposed. In fact, the Department has estimated that if these proposals had been implemented in 2007 they would have increased overall expenditure by primary care in this area by £5 million. If the proposals are implemented, the level of expenditure will continue to rise in line with any increase in the number of Part IXA, B and C prescription items dispensed in the future.

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the possibility of extending the prescription fee to dispensing appliance

contractors in the proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances and related services in Primary Care: A Consultation in June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [222254]

Dawn Primarolo: In the consultation entitled "Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care. June 2008" it has been proposed that dispensing appliance contractors should be required to provide a dispensing service for items that they supply in the normal course of their business and that they should receive a 90p professional dispensing fee for each part IX prescription item dispensed for providing this service.

This reflects one of the Department's stated aims of the review of the arrangements under part IX of the drug tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—in primary care, which is to ensure equitable payment to dispensing appliance contractors and pharmacy contractors for equivalent services.

An impact assessment was published alongside the consultation.

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's consultation of June 2008 on the proposed new arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology services and related services in primary care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the provision of associated services supplied with single line items is maintained. [222408]

Dawn Primarolo: One of the stated aims of the review of the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—in primary care is the maintenance and, where applicable, improvement of the current quality of care to patients—and provision of a consistent level of care.

Although many dispensing appliance contractors and pharmacy contractors provide additional services such as home delivery, these services are not required under their National Health Service service provision. Therefore, we want to make sure that key services are included in the arrangements for the provision of pharmaceutical services made by primary care trusts under Part 7 of the NHS Act 2006 and incorporated in to the terms of service set out in the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005—and that such services are provided to the same standard.

Consequently, the proposals relating to services set out in the consultation document entitled 'Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care. June 2008' apply to single line items.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on patient choice of his Department's proposals to impose a cap on remuneration for providers of stoma and incontinence services; [223911]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on disabled people of his Department's proposals to impose a cap on the payment for stoma and incontinence services provided by contractors; [223912]

(3) whether patients will continue to be able to choose any dispensing appliance contractor under the proposals in his Department's June 2007 consultation document on stoma and urology appliances; [223913]

Dawn Primarolo: In reviewing arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—one of the Department's key aims has been to maintain, and where applicable improve, the current quality of care to patients—and provide a consistent level of care. The Department recognises that a number of dispensing appliance contractors provide a number of services which many users value. However, these services are not required under the terms of their national health service service provision. Therefore, the Department wants to make sure that key services are included in the arrangements for the provision of pharmaceutical services made by primary care trusts under Part 7 of the NHS Act 2006, and incorporated in to the terms of service set out in the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005—and that such services are provided to the same standard.

The latest consultation entitled "Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care. June 2008", which has just closed, set out a number of proposals relating to remuneration for service provision directly linked to dispensing a prescription item. It was proposed that remuneration for only one such service should be capped. This service is appliance use reviews, which are intended to improve the patient's knowledge and use of the appliance they are using.

It was proposed that the number of total reviews that a dispensing appliance contractor or pharmacy contractor may claim for should be limited to one for every 35 Part IXA (catheter excluding any catheter accessory and maintenance solution), Part IXB and Part IXC prescription items dispensed in a year (April to March). However, the cap that was proposed in the latest consultation was lower than that proposed in earlier consultation published in September 2007; this was one for every 70 Part IXA (catheter excluding any catheter accessory and maintenance solution), Part IXB and Part IXC prescription items dispensed in a year (April to March). The new proposals reflected discussions with Industry and with representatives from the NHS and seeks to address concerns expressed about the previous cap.

Furthermore, the consultation that has just closed (9 September 2008) provided patients and Industry with the opportunity for views to be submitted regarding the current proposal.

The proposals set out in the consultation relate to the reimbursement for stoma and incontinence items dispensed and remuneration for related services. Consequently, patients will continue to be able to choose any dispensing appliance contractor—or pharmacy contractor—subject to the fact that they provide the requisite appliance and related service in the normal course of their business.

Infectious Diseases

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to revise the 2002 infectious disease strategy, with particular reference to national health and vaccination priorities. [223726]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2002, the chief medical officer published his report: "Getting Ahead of the Curve: a strategy for combating infectious diseases (including other aspects of health protection)".

This set out steps towards improving the protection of the health of the population of England. We have no plans to revise this document which has been placed in the Library. The key measure proposed in the document was the creation of a Health Infection Control and Health Protection Agency. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) was constituted accordingly under the Health Protection Agency Act 2004. The HPA now provides strong science-based support to the NHS, local government and others on all matters relating to infectious disease, radiation, chemical contamination, and other hazards.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation provides independent expert advice on vaccination issues. Since 'Getting Ahead of the Curve' was published, we have introduced pneumococcal vaccination for children, human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for girls and young women, and have switched from oral polio vaccines to an inactivated polio vaccine.

Injuries: Firearms

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 16 and 18 and *(c)* over 18 years were admitted to hospital with gunshot wounds in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England in each year since 1997. [223910]

Mr. Bradshaw: The available information is in the following tables. Information is collected on the number of finished admission episodes to hospital. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Information has been included on total number of admissions and admissions per 100,000 for gunshot wounds for years 1996-97 - 2006-07. Where possible this information has been broken down by age.

Due to the small number and for reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced in the attached table with an asterisk. We are unable to provide this information for South Tyneside PCT broken down by age because of the small numbers involved. It is not possible to provide information for the Jarrow constituency as information is not collected for this geographical area.

Reference should be made to the footnotes and clinical codes when interpreting the data.

Total number of admissions for stab wounds and gunshot wounds** for years 1996-07 – 2006-07, broken down by age for south Tyneside PCT, North Eats SHA and England*

South Tyneside PCT	Gunshot wounds	Stab wounds
2006-07	*	34
2005-06	*	39
2004-05	*	49
2003-04	*	58
2002-03	0	43
2001-02	8	41
2000-01	11	37
1999-2000	7	32
1998-99	*	34
1997-98	*	31

	Gunshot wounds					Stab wounds				
North East	Under 16	16-18	Over 18	Unknown	Total	Under 16	16-18	Over 18	Unknown	Total
2006-07	14	11	46	0	71	37	65	619	0	721
2005-06	11	10	29	0	50	25	76	661	0	762
2004-05	15	9	29	0	53	45	75	693	0	813
2003-04	10	10	40	0	60	36	68	664	0	768
2002-03	22	15	32	0	69	36	65	601	0	702
2001-02	27	18	39	0	84	37	67	643	0	747
2000-01	38	18	24	0	80	37	53	533	0	623
1999-20000	19	15	43	0	77	33	58	541	0	632
1998-99	33	19	34	0	86	27	50	480	0	558
1997-98	25	13	34	0	72	31	54	420		505

	Gunshot wounds					Stab wounds				
England	Under 16	16-18	Over 18	Unknown	Total	Under 16	16-18	Over 18	Unknown	Total
2006-07	181	208	925	1	1,315	495	1,122	9,384	3	11,004
2005-06	155	185	892	1	1,233	512	1,076	9,224	5	10,817
2004-05	199	175	788	1	1,163	474	911	8,623	3	10,011
2003-04	267	180	921	2	1,370	422	859	8,402	12	9,695
2002-03	253	209	824	1	1,287	443	779	7,852	6	9,309
2001-02	321	206	890	3	1,420	479	848	7,916	66	8,856
2000-01	287	192	641	2	1,122	463	779	7,596	18	8,856
1999-20000	362	189	618	1	1,170	438	784	7,340	25	8,587
1998-99	279	158	548	2	987	386	676	6,586	21	7,669
1997-98	260	146	579	9	994	389	701	6,397	118	7,605

Total number of admissions per 100,000 to hospital for stab wounds and gunshot wounds'* for years 1996-97 - 2006-07, broken down by age for South Tyneside PCT, North East SHA and England*

South Tyneside PCT	Gunshot wounds	Stab wounds
2006-07	*	22.51
2005-06	*	25.80
2004-05	*	32.39
2003-04	*	38.18
2002-03	0.00	28.19

	Gunshot Wounds				Stab Wounds			
North East	Under 16	16-18	Over 18	Total	Under 16	16-18	Over 18	Total
2006-07	2.98	10.81	2.32	2.78	7.88	63.89	31.19	28.21
2005-06	2.32	9.78	1.47	1.96	5.27	74.36	33.49	29.89
2004-05	3.13	8.72	1.48	2.08	9.39	72.64	35.37	31.98
2003-04	2.06	9.72	2.05	2.36	7.41	66.07	34.01	30.22
2002-03	4.47	14.81	1.64	2.72	7.31	64.16	30.87	27.63
2001-02	5.39	18.22	2.01	3.31	7.39	67.83	33.14	29.41
2000-01	7.47	18.56	1.24	3.15	7.27	54.64	27.51	24.49
1999-20000	3.69	15.26	2.22	3.02	6.41	59.02	27.93	24.78
1998-99	6.32	19.16	1.75	3.36	5.17	50.42	24.74	21.79
1997-98	4.74	13.08	1.75	2.80	5.88	54.35	21.63	19.66

	Gunshot Wounds				Stab Wounds			
England	Under 16	16-18	Over 18	Total	Under 16	16-18	Over 18	Total
2006-07	1.87	10.41	2.37	2.59	5.12	56.15	24.01	21.68
2005-06	1.60	9.34	2.30	2.44	5.27	54.32	23.79	21.43
2004-05	2.04	8.95	2.05	2.32	4.86	46.62	22.45	19.98
2003-04	2.72	9.37	2.42	2.75	4.30	44.73	22.03	19.44
2002-03	2.57	11.13	2.17	2.59	4.49	41.49	20.71	18.29
2001-02	3.24	11.25	2.36	2.87	4.83	46.31	20.99	18.83
2000-01	2.88	10.77	1.71	2.28	4.64	43.69	20.27	17.99
1999-2000	3.61	10.52	1.66	2.39	4.37	43.64	19.72	17.51
1998-99	2.79	8.74	1.48	2.02	3.86	37.38	17.80	15.71
1997-98	2.60	8.11	1.57	2.04	3.89	38.94	17.35	15.63

Liver Diseases

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to monitor the incidence of liver disease as a marker for the performance of public health programmes on alcohol, obesity and blood-borne viruses. [222375]

Dawn Primarolo: Liver disease is a growing problem. Often it is associated with people's choices throughout their lives.

The Government have published strategies for alcohol misuse, viral hepatitis and obesity, designed to improve diagnosis and treatment for the future. However, we are aware that despite these strategies, there is a problem in the shorter term of managing the primary causes of liver disease.

We are now considering what the national health service needs to do over the next few years in order to address these pressures, and how this should be monitored. We shall announce next steps in due course.

London Ambulance Service: Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what operational levels have been achieved by the London Ambulance Service since March, broken down by borough; and if he will make a statement. [222725]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally by borough level and is not available for the period requested.

Information on trust-level operational performance standards achieved by each national health service ambulance trust is published annually in the KA34 statistical bulletin. The latest statistical bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England, 2007-08", was published in June 2008, which has already been placed in the Library. It can also be found on the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2007-08

London Ambulance Service: Vacancies

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies in the London Ambulance Service there are, broken down by borough; and if he will make a statement. [222726]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held in the format requested. The information available on the number of vacancies is for London Ambulance Service NHS Trust as a whole, and not broken down by borough.

Three month vacancy rates at London Ambulance Service NHS Trust at 31 March 2008 can be found in the table. This is the latest information available.

The provision of health services, including members of staff at ambulance trusts, is a matter for the local national health service.

Information centre for health and social care vacancies survey March 2008: NHS three month vacancies in the London ambulance service NHS trust—three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post

	March 2008		*September 2007*	
London ambulance service	*Three month vacancy rate percentage*	*Three month vacancy number*	*(Staff in post) full-time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*
Health care assistants and support staff within LDP definitions	0.0	0	0	0
Other health care assistants	0.0	0	0	0
Administrative and clerical staff	0.0	0	1,008	1,046
Ambulance staff	0.0	0	2,938	3,034

Notes:
1. Vacancy data are from the Vacancies Survey 2008.
2. Three month vacancy information is as at 31 March 2008.
3. Three month vacancies are vacancies which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full time equivalents).
4. Three month vacancy rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post.
5. Three month vacancy rates are calculated using staff in post from the Non-medical Workforce Census September 2007.
6. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
7. Staff in post data are from the Non-Medical Workforce Census September 2007.
8. Vacancy and staff in post numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
9. Calculating the vacancy rates using the above data may not equal the actual vacancy rates.
10. Strategic health authority figures are based on trusts, and do not necessarily reflect the geographical provision of health care.

Source:
The Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census, Vacancies Survey

Malnutrition: Children

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in England were *(a)* treated by a GP for undernutrition not caused by an eating disorder and *(b)* admitted to hospital for treatment for undernutrition not caused by an eating disorder in each of the last five years. [222684]

Ann Keen: Data on general practitioner activity for those being treated for undernutrtion not caused by a eating disorder are not collected centrally.

Information on the total admissions to hospital of 0 to 18-year-olds in which the patient had a primary diagnosis of undernutrition without a primary or secondary diagnosis of an eating disorder at the start of his/her stay from 2002-03 to 2006-07 is set out in the following table. This covers national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS.

	Total admissions
2006-07	31
2005-06	20
2004-05	18
2003-04	19
2002-03	22

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Maternity Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to improve quality and safety in maternity services; and whether there are mechanisms in place to monitor and audit the implementation of the maternity dashboard in trusts, as recommended by the Chief Medical Officer in his report in 2007 and by Lord Darzi in the NHS Next Stage Review; [221818]

(2) what plans he has to incorporate and implement the latest standards developed by *(a)* the Royal Colleges on maternity and *(b)* the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists standards on gynaecology in delivering NHS services. [221906]

Ann Keen: The Department's strategy for safe, high quality, modernised maternity services is set out in "Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service". A copy has already been placed in the Library. It is for trusts to provide maternity care in line with the clinical standards outlined in guidance issued by the Department, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the professional bodies.

The new standards for maternity and gynaecological care, developed by the Royal Colleges, and the maternity dashboard, produced by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), are useful tools, which commissioners and providers are encouraged to use to develop high quality maternity care. The president of the RCOG has written to all clinical directors asking them to use and adapt the dashboard in their maternity units. Its use will be evaluated by the RCOG.

Maternity Services: Newcastle upon Tyne

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to prepare for the likely effect on demand for maternity services in Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust area of the possible reorganisation of maternity facilities in neighbouring trust areas. [222630]

Ann Keen: Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

However, the north east strategic health authority report that commissioners from the North of Tyne 'cluster' of primary care trusts (PCTs) (Northumberland National Health Service Care Trust, Newcastle PCT, and North Tyneside PCT) are in close contact with the two trusts (Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust) and are in the process of organising a progress meeting with the heads of midwifery and lead obstetricians of the trusts to discuss the impact of the reorganisation.

The PCTs are also providing three-monthly updates for the North Tyneside Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), which representatives of the Newcastle and Northumberland OSCs are also attending.

Medical Equipment

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the evaluation report for the community equipment model; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [222404]

Dawn Primarolo: The retail model developed for community equipment met with overall approval from the sector. The outline business case was sufficiently robust to support developing the outline model to operational status. This is currently being undertaken through a shadow running process in the North West with local authority and health partners in Manchester, Oldham and Cheshire.

The shadow running process demonstrated improvements in the user experience and efficiency of the service.

Cheshire and Oldham have decided to implement the model locally. This confirms that, in their areas, the new prescription processes have been demonstrated to be effective and are capable of being scaled up to support full implementation of the retail model.

The business case for a new model of delivery of wheelchair services is currently being considered by senior officials in the Department. At the present time we are unable to specify a time scale for any future decisions to be made and announced.

Medical Examinations: Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which ports of entry where in-bound international traffic is expected have port medical inspectors on duty at all times at which the port is open. [223841]

Dawn Primarolo: Medical inspectors are appointed under the Immigration Act 1971 to advise immigration officers at ports and airports on health issues relating to applicants for admission to the United Kingdom. Medical inspectors may be located at a port or airport, or brought in on call, according to local assessment of the most cost-effective deployment of resources. Information is not collected centrally on the deployment of medical inspectors at ports and airports.

Medical Records: Data Protection

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 25-27WS, on data handling procedures, if he will commission a privacy impact assessment for the NHS Spine database project. [222208]

Mr. Bradshaw: This matter has been carefully considered, but we do not believe that such an assessment would serve any useful purpose at this stage of the project.

The aim of a privacy impact assessment is to ensure that privacy is considered at every stage of a project involving the handling of information, and that action is taken to mitigate against identified risks to the privacy of individuals. While this is clearly a useful tool for many projects where these matters might otherwise be neglected, the need to safeguard privacy and confidentiality is a necessary deliverable of any health record system, and the management of risk in this area has been a core deliverable of the national health service care records service (the spine project).

The security safeguards around access to patient data held within the new care records will provide an unprecedented level of assurance compared with existing electronic and paper systems. The Department has also produced what we believe is the most comprehensive privacy statement of any public service in the form of the NHS care record guarantee for England, setting out 12 commitments the NHS makes to patients in order to protect their confidentiality.

The Information Commissioner has confirmed that, properly deployed, the new systems have the potential to allow the NHS to better meet the various informational and privacy challenges which it faces than the systems currently in existence, and that he is content with the general approach being taken with the care records service.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 206W, on medical records: databases, whether Connecting for Health is able to comment on the monitoring processes Caldicott Guardians will use in relation to their collective access to the Care Records Service. [222409]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Connecting for Health provides information governance policies, guidance and tools to the NHS. However, the local processes are matters of local accountability, and for local discretion.

NHS Connecting for Health also provides a web-site:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/infogov/caldicott

on which are posted the minutes of meetings of the UK Council of Caldicott Guardians, back issues of the Caldicott Guardian newsletter, frequently-asked questions, example job descriptions and specifications, and other useful resources and information for those appointed to this important role.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients paid for their own treatment within the European Economic Area in each of the last three months. [222996]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not known how many national health service patients have paid for their own treatment in the European economic area in the last three months as this information is not collected centrally.

Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average weekly cost is of commissioning treatment for an individual through *(a)* Tier 5 NHS medium secure services, *(b)* community forensic services and *(c)* Tier 4 NHS mental health services; and how many people received treatment in each category in each of the last five years. [223862]

Dawn Primarolo: From the 2006-07 reference costs the national average cost, per bed day, for medium secure mental health units is £453. This is for national health service trusts and primary care trusts combined and is sourced from Schedule 4 of the 2006-07 reference costs.

For the number of people who received treatment in Tier 5 NHS medium secure services, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Somerton and Frome (Mr. Heath) on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, 1315-16w.

The information requested on community forensic services is not available centrally.

Tier 4 services are mainly specialist in-patient services for those people with severe and complex personality disorder but who do not present a risk to other people and who are not detained. For the year 2005-6 these services were treating approximately 100 to 120 people per year on an in-patient basis; and 70 patients per year on a day basis. The cost is approximately £1,500 to £2,000 per week for in-patient services.

Mental Health Services: Young Offenders

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken between initial assessment by a psychiatrist at Young Offender Institution Ashfield and Huntercombe and transfer to facilities provided by St. Andrews Healthcare. [222237]

Dawn Primarolo: This work has not been undertaken centrally.

The "Procedure for the Transfer of Prisoners to and from Hospital under Sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983" was published in December 2007 with contributions from the Department of Health, HM Prison Service and National Commissioning Group. A copy has been placed in the Library. The National Commissioning Group are responsible for commissioning a range of specialist services including the national in-patient Secure Forensic Mental Health Service for Young People, which oversees in-patient treatment and referrals to seven specialist units for under 18s in England.

The "Procedure for the Transfer of Prisoners to and from Hospital under Sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983" aims to help colleagues to work together more effectively to secure and sustain significant improvements in any unacceptable delays transferring patients from custodial care to hospital care and includes a specific section on young people. The procedure states that a child with an acute need for a mental health secure bed should be moved within seven days.

Mentally Ill: Legal Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 799-800, what funding has been allocated for statutory independent advocacy services in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [213310]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are committed to funding independent mental health advocacy and funding for this will be announced together with other departmental priorities as part of the Department's 2009-10 business plan which we expect to publish in the spring.

Mentally Incapacitated: Protection

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals for legislative provisions to strengthen the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and the regulation of those that work with them so as to establish parity between such provisions and those that apply in the field of child protection; and if he will make a statement. [222373]

Ann Keen: The Government are committed to strengthening safeguarding for adults and is consulting on a range of ways of doing so. We are currently conducting a review of the No Secrets guidance, in light of the knowledge we have gained since it was introduced in 2000. We will consider the case for legislation as part of the review process.

We are working closely with other Government Departments on the review and will shortly be launching a public consultation exercise as part of it. We have already undertaken a listening exercise with key stakeholders to support the consultation process.

We want to enable adults to make informed decisions about how they live, how they are supported and what level of risk they are comfortable with. It is important that we do not assume that they automatically need the same type of protection as children.

MRSA

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in eradicating MRSA infection in NHS hospitals. [222623]

Ann Keen: The latest Health Protection Agency data for January to March 2008 shows significant progress, with a reduction in methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections of 33 per cent. compared to the same quarter last year. These figures also show a 49 per cent. reduction compared to the quarterly average in 2003-04, so the national health service is on course to reach the current nationwide target to halve the number of MRSA bloodstream infections by the end of March 2008 compared to 2003-04 levels.

It is not possible to eradicate health care associated infections completely as many health care interventions have some element of risk and sick people are more vulnerable to infection. However, the NHS is seeking to ensure that no avoidable infection occurs, as well as working towards the current nationwide target for MRSA bloodstream infections.

Under the "Better Care for All" public service agreement, the NHS is required to sustain progress on reducing the number of MRSA bloodstream infections to 2010-11. This means that the annual number of MRSA bloodstream infections for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 should be less than half of the 2003-04 figure. As we have said in the "Clean, Safe Care" strategy, we do not, however, expect that this should limit the ambitions of organisations that wish to go further, faster. The NHS has made extraordinary progress in reducing MRSA levels and there is no reason to think that the progress cannot be maintained.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans are being developed based on the proposals in the NHS Next Stage Review for an extended role for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop standards to monitor quality and safety of services; and what effect this role will have on organisations involved in standards-setting, with particular reference to *(a)* the Healthcare Commission, *(b)* the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts and (c) the Royal Colleges. [221823]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's report High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review Final Report (CM7432) states that, from 2009, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) will expand the number and reach of national quality standards either by selecting the best available standards, including the adoption of the relevant parts of national service frameworks or by filling in gaps. We are taking forward work on this proposal with NICE. NICE will need to work with a range of stakeholders as it develops national quality standards.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which interventions *(a)* have been assessed and *(b)* are being assessed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) through its Single Technology Appraisal process; and on which date (i) the intervention received its product licence, (ii) the intervention was referred to NICE, (iii) NICE started its appraisal and (iv) NICE completed its appraisal in respect of each. [222426]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is in the following table.

Topic	*Work programme*	*Published/ongoing*	*Date of marketing authorisation*[1]	*Referral date*[2]	*Date of final NICE guidance*	*Start of NICE appraisal*[3]
Xolair (omalizumab) for uncontrolled asthma	8	Published	October 2005	April 2003	November 2007	November 2006
Remicade (infliximab) for psoriasis	8	Published	September 2005	April 2003	January 2008	March 2007
Natrecor (nesiritide), Heart failure (acute decompensated)	9	Ongoing	n/a	October 2003	n/a	October 2003
Erbitux (cetuximab), Head and neck cancer	10	Published	n/a	June 2004	June 2008	June 2006
Iressa (gefitinib), lung cancer (non-small cell)	10	Ongoing	n/a	June 2004	n/a	January 2009
Tysabri (natalizumab) for the treatment of multiple sclerosis	10	Published	June 2006	June 2004	August 2007	September 2006
Alimta (pemetrexed) for mesothelioma	10	Published	September 2004	June 2004	January 2008	April 2005
Erbitux (cetuximab) for head and neck cancer	10	Published	March 2006	June 2004	June 2008	June 2006
Campto (irinotecan), colon cancer (adjuvant)	10	Ongoing	n/a	June 2004	n/a	n/a
Mabthera (rituximab) for untreated stage III or IV follicular lymphoma	11	Published	August 2004	April 2005	September 2006	April 2007
Taxol (paclitaxel) for early node-positive breast cancer	11	Published	March 2005	April 2005	September 2006	November 2005
Taxotere (docetaxel) for early node-positive breast cancer	11	Published	March 2006	April 2005	September 2006	November 2005
Gemzar (gemcitabine) for metastatic breast cancer	11	Published	September 2004	April 2005	January 2007	February 2006
Fludara (fludarabine) for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	11	Published	February 2003	April 2005	February 2007	February 2006
Alimta (pemetrexed) for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer	11	Published	n/a	April 2005	August 2007	April 2006
Tarceva (erlotinib), lung cancer (non-small cell)	11	Ongoing	September 2005	April 2005	n/a	March 2009
Idraparinux sodium, atrial fibrillation	12	Ongoing	n/a	July 2006	n/a	July 2006
Arava (leflunomide), psoriatic arthritis (moderate to severe)	12	Ongoing	June 2004	July 2006	n/a	July 2006
Idraparinux sodium, venous thromboembolism (recurrent)	12	Ongoing	n/a	July 2006	n/a	July 2006
Herceptin (trastuzumab) for early-stage HER2-positive breast cancer	12	Published	May 2006	July 2005	August 2006	December 2005

Topic	Work programme	Published/ongoing	Date of marketing authorisation[1]	Referral date[2]	Date of final NICE guidance	Start of NICE appraisal[3]
Alteplase (Actilyse) for the treatment of acute ischaemic stroke	12	Published	June 2002	July 2006	June 2007	September 2006
Champix (varenicline) for smoking cessation	12	Published	September 2006	July 2006	July 2007	November 2006
Humira (adalimumab) for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis	12	Published	August 2005	July 2005	August 2007	September 2006
MabThera (rituximab) for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis	12	Published	July 2006	July 2005	August 2007	September 2006
Velcade (bortezomib) for multiple myeloma	12	Published	April 2004	July 2005	October 2007	December 2005
Orencia (abatacept) for rheumatoid arthritis	12	Published	May 2007	July 2006	April 2008	October 2006
Tyverb (lapatinib), breast cancer (advanced or metastatic)	13	Ongoing	June 2008	December 2006	n/a	February 2007
Cimzia (certolizumab), rheumatoid arthritis	13	Ongoing	n/a	December 2006	n/a	December 2006
Remicade (infliximab), ulcerative colitis (acute exacerbations)	13	Ongoing	February 2006	December 2006	n/a	March 2007
Remicade (infliximab) for ulcerative colitis	13	Published	February 2006	December 2006	April 2008	March 2007
Acomplia (rimonabant) for obesity	13	Published	June 2006	December 2006	June 2008	June 2007
Baraclude (entecavir), Hepatitis B	14	Ongoing	June 2006	June 2007	August 2008	September 2007
Sebivo (telbivudine), Hepatitis B	14	Ongoing	April 2007	June 2007	August 2008	September 2007
Adenuric (febuxostat), hyperuricaemia	14	Ongoing	April 2008	June 2007	n/a	August 2007
Humira (adalimumab) for the chronic psoriasis	14	Published	December 2007	June 2007	June 2008	July 2007
Ixabepilone, breast cancer (locally advanced or metastatic)	15	Ongoing	n/a	December 2007	n/a	July 2008
Erbitux (cetuximab), colorectal cancer (first line)	15	Ongoing	July 2008	December 2007	n/a	January 2008
Erbitux (cetuximab), lung cancer (non-small cell)	15	Ongoing	n/a	December 2007	n/a	October 2008
Revlimid (lenalidomide), multiple myeloma	15	Ongoing	June 2007	December 2007	n/a	April 2008
Xeloda (capectitabine), pancreatic cancer	15	Ongoing	n/a	December 2007	n/a	June 2009
Pradaxa (dabigatran), venous thromboembolism	15	Ongoing	March 2008	December 2007	n/a	January 2008
Erbitux (cetuximab), head and neck cancer (squamous cell carcinoma)	16	Ongoing	March 2006	March 2008	n/a	March 2008
Effient (prasugrel), acute coronary artery syndrome	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	November 2008
Viread (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), Hepatitis B	17	Ongoing	April 2008	June 2008	n/a	August 2008
Nexavar (sorafenib), hepatocellular carcinoma (advanced and metastatic)	17	Ongoing	October 2007	June 2008	n/a	August 2008
Orencia (abatacept), juvenile idiopathic arthritis	17	Ongoing	May 2007	June 2008	n/a	January 2009
Humira (adalimumab), juvenile idiopathic arthritis	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	September 2008
Sprycel (dasatinib), leukaemia (acute lymphoblastic)	17	Ongoing	November 2006	June 2008	n/a	July 2008

Topic	Work programme	Published/ongoing	Date of marketing authorisation[1]	Referral date[2]	Date of final NICE guidance	Start of NICE appraisal[3]
Temodal (temozolomide), melanoma (advanced and metastatic	17	Ongoing	June 2005	June 2008	n/a	March 2009
Mifamurtide, Osteosarcoma	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	August 2008
Romiplostim, thrombocytompenic purpura	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	August 2008
Promacta (eltrombopag), thrombocytopenic purpura	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	March 2009
Xarelto (rivaroxaban), venous thromboembolism	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	August 2008
Azacitidine, acute myelomonocytic leukaemia and acute myeloid leukaemia	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	January 2009
Xeloda (capecitabine), advanced gastric cancer	18	Ongoing	January 2006	July 2008	n/a	December 2008
Methylnaltrexone, opioid-induced constipation in patients receiving palliative care	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	February 2009
Daitros (alitretinoin), severe chronic hand eczema	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	October 2008
Alimta (pemetrexed), locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer	18	Ongoing	April 2008	July 2008	n/a	June 2009
Mabthera (rituximab), relapsed treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	September 2009
Mabthera (rituximab), chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	September 2008
Sutent (sunitinib), gastrointestinal stromal tumours	18	Ongoing	July 2006	July 2008	n/a	August 2008
Actemra (tocilizumab), rheumatoid arthritis	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	November 2008
Hycamtin (topotecan), carcinoma of the cervix	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	December 2008
Yondelis (trabectedin), advanced metastatic soft tissue sarcoma	18	Ongoing	September 2007	July 2008	n/a	September 2008
Ustekinumab, moderate to severe psoriasis	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	November 2008

[1] Date of marketing authorisation by European Medicines Agency (EMEA).
[2] Topics before the 13 work programme were originally referred to NICE's Multiple Technology Appraisal (MTA) programme and were transferred to the STA programme when it was introduced in August 2006. The date provided is the date the topic was originally referred to NICE as a Multiple Technology Appraisal.
[3] The date NICE commenced work on the appraisal. NICE will also have carried out scoping work for the appraisal before this date.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his latest estimate is of the average cost to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence of completing a *(a)* single technology appraisal and *(b)* multiple technology appraisal; [222427]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average cost of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence of undertaking a technology appraisal. [222428]

Dawn Primarolo: The total average direct cost to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to develop either a multiple technology appraisal (MTA) or single technology appraisal (STA) is estimated at £100,000. The average cost to the National Coordinating Centre for Health Technology Assessment (NCCHTA), who carry out an independent assessment of the evidence in support of NICE's appraisals, is estimated at £150,000 for an MTA and £50,000 for an STA. These estimates do not include the costs of publication, dissemination and implementation support nor do they include corporate overheads or support costs.

NHS

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 38 of his Department's consultation on the NHS Constitution dated 30 June 2008, for what reason the wording of the seventh principle contained in the NHS Plan has been changed in the draft NHS Constitution. [222429]

Mr. Bradshaw: The draft national health service constitution says that public funds for healthcare will be "devoted solely to the benefit of the people that the

NHS serves", whereas the NHS plan said they would be "devoted solely to NHS patients". The revised wording does not represent any change in policy, but simply recognises that not all NHS funding is spent on patients. For example, funding for public health campaigns is used to promote the health of the wider population.

The draft NHS constitution and the Government's proposals are open for public consultation until 17 October 2008. The details, including how to feed in views, are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/consultations.

NHS Information Centre

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 370W, on NHS Information Centre: Grayling Political Strategy, if he will request the Chief Executive of the NHS Information Centre to provide the information requested on public expenditure. [222972]

Mr. Bradshaw: Grayling was engaged to supply a range of media and communication services including relations with trade and general media, events management and public affairs advice. They were appointed in 2006-07 and payment was made as follows:

	£
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	115,479
2007-08	5,382

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 370W, on NHS Information Centre: Grayling Political Strategy, what contribution the NHS Information Centre makes to the preparation of answers to the parliamentary questions put to him. [222973]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Information Centre collects, analyses and distributes facts and figures for health and social care in England. It provides independent data for parliamentary questions covering a wide range of information from hospital admissions, statistics, national health service work force and salary data, alcohol, smoking and lifestyle surveys through to prescriptions data.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to the NHS was of treating patients with *(a)* Gemtuzumab (Mylotarg), *(b)* Trastuzumab (Herceptin), *(c)* Imatinib (Glivec), *(d)* Alemtuzumab (Campath), *(e)* Capecitabine (Xeloda), *(f)* Paclitaxel (Taxol), *(g)* Rituximab (MabThera), *(h)* Azacytidine (Vidaza), *(i)* Docetaxel (Taxotere), *(j)* Temozolomide (Temodar), *(k)* Clorfaribine (Clolar), *(l)* Dasatinib (Sprycel), *(m)* Fulvestrant (Flaslodex), *(n)* Trabectadin (Yondelis), *(o)* Bortezomib (Velcade), *(p)* Irinotecan (Campto), *(q)* Gemcitabine (Gemzar), *(r)* Nilotinib (Tasigna), *(s)* Infliximab (Remicade), *(t)* Topotecan (Hycamtin), *(u)* Yttrium-90, *(v)* Pemetrexed (Alimta), *(w)* Erlotinib (Tarceva), *(x)* Lenalidomide (Revlimid), *(y)* Letrazole (Femara), *(z)* Sorafenib (Nexavar), (aa) Sunitinib (Sutent), (bb) Bevaciazumab (Avastin), (cc) Cetuximab (Erbitux), (dd) Ibritumomab (Zevalin) and (ee) Cisplatin (CDDP) in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what research his Department has (i) commissioned and (ii) evaluated for bench-marking purposes on overseas (A) use and (B) spending on each drug. [224307]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information on the average cost to the national health service of treating patients with the cancer medicines listed.

In developing the Ministerial Industry Strategy Group's "Long-Term Leadership Strategy" report, the Department and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry carried out an analysis which compared the rates of uptake for a selection of medicines in the United Kingdom compared with Germany, France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. This analysis included Trastuzumab (Herceptin), Imatinib (Glivec), and Rituximab (MabThera). The report has been placed in the Library and can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_065198

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been top-sliced from primary care trusts budgets in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09, broken down by primary care trust; and for each year how much has been paid back in each case. [224302]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department collected primary care trust (PCT) top slice information in the format requested in 2006-07 only. This information, based on data collected in the 2006-07 Month 12 national health service financial monitoring forms, has been placed in the Library.

The 2007-08 NHS Operating Framework clearly stated that, because of the extent of the financial recovery across the NHS, PCTs should not need to contribute the same level of top slice from their revenue allocations as was the case in 2006-07. Consequently, in the 2007-08 NHS draft accounts, we collected data showing a single net value for the amount of top slice transferred to, and paid back by, strategic health authorities (SHAs) during the year, and the balance remaining with SHAs at the year-end.

Figures for 2008-09 will be available from the 2008-09 NHS draft accounts after the end of the financial year.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions generated by *(a)* the NHS IT programme (i) to date and (ii) over the lifetime of the programme and *(b)* (A) the Connecting for Health Agency and (B) information technology usage in the NHS in the last 12 months. [222412]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are a range of initiatives to reduce carbon dioxide emissions across the national health service and in the use of information technology, including initiatives extended to IT suppliers. However, information is not collected centrally that would enable such estimates to be made and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish details of the accord between the NHS Litigation Authority and FirstAssist in relation to the level of insurance premiums recovered in respect of after the event insurance provided in connection with clinical negligence claims funded by conditional fee agreements. [222625]

Ann Keen: A copy of the Accord between the NHS Litigation Authority and FirstAssist has been placed in the House Library.

The Accord is a non-binding statement of intent which seeks to give effect to the judgment of Senior Costs Judge Hurst in the RSA Pursuit Test Cases[1] and to provide an informal means for resolving disputes between the NHSLA and First Assist. The NHSLA specifically reserves the right to challenge premiums where it believes the premium is disproportionate to the size of the damages obtained. The Accord was entered into with the intention of providing an element of certainty in this area of litigation and with the aim of avoiding unnecessary costs associated with satellite litigation.

[1] Reference (2005) EWHC 90003 (Costs) 27 May 2005, BAILII

NHS: Plants

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the sum spent by NHS trusts on ornamental plants and seeds in the most recent year for which figures are available. [222498]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS: Private Sector

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which are the largest 10 private sector providers contracted for direct health care in the NHS in terms of *(a)* turnover and *(b)* patient throughput. [224441]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning the majority of direct health care provision in the NHS. The detail of their contracts is not held centrally.

The largest 10 independent sector providers, by value, of services under the nationally procured independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programme and the extended choice network (ECN) in 2007-08 are listed in the following table.

The turnover for providers cannot be released at this time for reasons of commercial sensitivity but the Department is working with providers with the intention of releasing as much information as possible in the future. By the end of November this year, contract details relating to the Phase 2 ISTC contracts will be published on the Department's website in line with the Wave 1 information that is already available there.

The largest 10 independent sector providers, by value, of services under the nationally procured ISTC programme and the ECN in 2007-08

£ rank	*Independent sector provider*	*Patient throughput*
1	Care UK	170,864
2	Ramsay Health Care UK	19,828
3	Interhealth Care Services	7,831
4	UK Specialist Hospitals	9,782
5	Nations Healthcare	35,498
6	Netcare UK	7,882
7	Spire Healthcare	33,507
8	Alliance Medical	80,368
9	Nuffield Hospitals	1,988
10	The Horder Centre	486

Note:
Patient throughput includes procedures, diagnostic assessments and episodes of primary care but not out-patient assessment appointments for elective procedures through ISTCs and the IS ECN.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1235W, on NHS: working hours, whether the pilots will reflect the proposed changes to the terms of the European Working Time Directive. [222411]

Ann Keen: No. The pilots are designed to meet the 48 hour week under the current legal interpretations.

Nursing and Midwifery Council

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on the governance and performance of the Nursing and Midwifery Council in the last three years. [222363]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has received a number of representations over the last three years, including from the following individuals and bodies: former and serving members of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), unions representing NMC registrants in the United Kingdom, the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE), members of the UK Parliament and members of the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland and Wales.

The Department was made aware of concerns about the NMC. As a result of these representations, the Department asked the CHRE to expedite its annual performance review of the NMC in 2008.

The Department has accepted the recommendations made by CHRE in the 'Special report to the Minister of State for Health Services on the Nursing and Midwifery Council' and it is moving towards a newly constituted council via reforms in the Nursing and Midwifery (Amendment) Order 2008, which will deliver a new, wholly appointed Council by the new year. This piece of legislation has now received Royal Approval. In future, all Council members will be appointed rather than elected.

Obesity

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Government did not set a target to reduce levels of obesity between 1997 and 2004. [223725]

Dawn Primarolo: From the 1998 comprehensive spending review until 2004, the Department agreed a range of targets (public service agreements) to improving health that were related to obesity. For example, in 2000 the Department published a public service agreement (PSA) to substantially reduce the mortality rates from major killers by 2010, including heart disease and cancer—obesity is a contributing factor to both of these health issues.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects related to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games; how many of those are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [221867]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is as follows.

The Department of Health

	Current full-time equivalent (FTE) members of staff working on projects related to London 2012 (as at 12 September 2008)
Project Management	1.32 + 3 for 15 days
Legacy planning	4.01
Project oversight	1.0
Financial oversight	0.1
Total	6.43 + 3 for 15 days

Figures include both civil servants, consultancy support and secondees.

In addition, a further full-time member of staff is currently being recruited to support 2012 legacy work. This member of staff would represent-0.2 FTE on project management and 0.8 FTE on legacy planning.

Furthermore, the Department has also assigned an envelope of funding to each of the nine regions for the comprehensive spending review period. In 2008-09 each Regional Public Health Group (RPHG) will receive £100,000 for physical activity. This will be used as each region sees best, to put in place action plans working with partner organisations and stakeholders, though each RPHG has been tasked by the Department to develop a regional 2012 Health Legacy Action Plan that complements the national Legacy Action Plan to deliver a 2012 health legacy. It is likely that a proportion of this funding will be used to secure additional capacity to take forward programmes.

Our future staffing needs are currently being reviewed. The number of staff working on projects related to London 2012 is likely to increase over time.

Associated public bodies: The Health Protection Agency

	Current full-time equivalent members of staff working on projects related to London 2012 (as at 12 September 2008)
Project Management	1.0
Legacy planning	0.1
Project oversight	0.15
Financial oversight	0.05
Total	1.3

At present, there are no plans for any increase on current staff levels in relation to the 2012 Olympics at the Health Protection Agency. However, over the next four years some increase might be necessary.

Palliative Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the contribution of the National Gold Standards Framework Centre to the effective functioning of the Gold Standards Framework. [222440]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Gold Standards Framework Centre made an important contribution to the roll out of the Gold Standards Framework. This was recognised by the support they received through the Department's £12 million National Health Service End of Life Care Programme, which ran from 2004 to 2007.

Patient Choice Schemes: Greater London

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which of London's NHS foundation trusts and teaching hospitals are not implementing the policy of allowing patients to use the choose and book appointments system; to what extent the implementation of this policy is being overseen by *(a)* Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts and *(b)* the Healthcare Commission; and if he will make a statement. [222388]

Mr. Bradshaw: All London NHS Foundation Trusts (NHSFTs) and teaching hospitals are using Choose and Book.

We are informed by the Chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHSFTs) that during 2007-08, compliance with the requirement to implement and maintain systems to support Choose and Book was reported by NHSFTs to Monitor on a quarterly basis. In 2007-08, no NHSFT reported to Monitor that it did not have in place the systems in order to enable it to offer choice to patients.

The Healthcare Commission has an indicator 'Convenience and Choice' as part of the annual health check. It assesses trusts on the information that providers have on NHS Choices and the availability of appointment slots on Choose and Book for patients to book their appointment.

Pregnancy: Diabetes

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures his Department has put in place to support women with diabetes during pregnancy. [222671]

Dawn Primarolo: While it is for national health service providers and commissioners to decide how best to meet the needs of pregnant women with diabetes, both the National Service Framework for Diabetes, and the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services include standards that refer specifically to diabetes in pregnancy. Commissioners should aim to provide services that meet these standards.

To support this, the National Clinical Director for Diabetes is currently working with key stakeholders to develop a project to support the NHS in improving outcomes for women with diabetes.

Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Amendment Order 2008

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to implement the provisions of the Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Amendment Order 2008; and if he will make a statement. [222419]

Dawn Primarolo: The amendment order came into force on 1 April 2008. However, to fully implement the provisions allowing Nurse and Pharmacist Independent Prescribers to prescribe all controlled drugs, corresponding amendments to the Home Office's Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 are also necessary. These amendments are expected to come into force later this year.

Prescriptions: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations his Department has received from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* other interested parties in the last 12 months on the service provided by (i) ScriptSwitch Ltd and (ii) other systems used by clinicians to alert them to cheaper substitute medicines; [222510]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to NHS organisations on the use of *(a)* ScriptSwitch and *(b)* other systems used by clinicians to alert them to cheaper substitute medicines; [222511]

(3) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS spent on ScriptSwitch in each of the last three years; [222512]

(4) what contractual arrangements there are between ScriptSwitch Ltd and *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS; [222513]

(5) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the use of ScriptSwitch on *(a)* patient safety, *(b)* patient safety with specific regard to those patients with co-morbidities, *(c)* quality of care, *(d)* prescribing costs and *(e)* clinical freedom to prescribe; and if he will make a statement. [222514]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following publication of the National Audit Office's May 2007 report Prescribing costs in primary care, the Department issued guidance entitled Strategies to Achieve Cost Effective Prescribing on 26 June 2007. This outlines advice to primary care trusts (PCTs) and general practitioner practices on how to consider releasing resources through so-called 'therapeutic switching' strategies. It gives details of a number of principles that should underpin any strategy, including the principle that decisions should be based on patients' individual clinical needs. The guidance has been placed in the Library and is available from the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_076350

We are aware that a commercially available prescribing support software tool provided by Scriptswitch Ltd has been adopted by a number of PCTs. The Department does not hold information on the numbers of PCTs using the tool, on individual contractual arrangements or on national health service expenditure on this product. The Department has not undertaken any assessment of the effects of the use of Scriptswitch by the NHS.

The Department is unaware of any other system similar to that provided by Scriptswitch Ltd. Apart from the questions asked by the hon. Member for Eddisbury, in the period 31 August 2007 to 1 September 2008 the Department received three written representations concerning Scriptswitch.

Psychiatry: Regulation

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timescale is for *(a)* the consultation exercise on the regulation of psychotherapists, *(b)* the publication of the results of the consultation, *(c)* any decisions contingent on the consultation and *(d)* the implementation of those decisions. [222492]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is not currently consulting on the regulation of psychotherapists, however discussions on the scope of practice and the national occupational standards for psychotherapists are continuing. Once agreement has been reached we will publish proposals for public consultation.

Radiotherapy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Cancer Reform Strategy's Impact Assessment, if he will break down the one-off transition costs for improving radiotherapy services by anticipated expenditure on *(a)* increasing capacity, *(b)* reducing cancer waits and *(c)* collecting and analysing outcomes data. [220991]

Dawn Primarolo: The one-off transitional costs of £394 million on page 3 of the Cancer Reform Strategy's Impact Assessment refer only to the cost of radiotherapy capacity.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Babies

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born with sexually transmitted infections in each of the last five years, broken down by disease. [222291]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is only currently available in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics on the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.

The number of diagnoses made in babies born with a sexually transmitted infection in England, by infection for 2003-07 is shown in the following table:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Congenital syphilis, aged under 2 years	[1]—	7	14	6	[1]—
Gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum, aged under 2 months	[1]—	24	90	28	26
Chlamydial ophthalmia neonatorum, aged under 2 months	43	76	37	32	17

[1] Cell size of 1 to 4 and totals have been masked to protect deductive disclosure in accordance with Office for National Statistics guidelines.

Notes:

1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
3. Additional information on infants born with a sexually transmitted infection can be found on the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) Service website www.hesonline.nhs.uk.
4. Some of the data from GUM clinics may be from referrals and therefore may also be counted in the HES dataset.
5. Not all infants born with a sexually transmitted infection would have been referred to a GUM clinic.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

The number of babies born with HIV infection in England for 2003-07, is shown in the following table:

	Confirmed mother to baby HIV transmission
2003	26
2004	33
2005	30
2006	23
2007	8

Note:

Additional information on reporting of infants born to HIV-infected women is available at www.nshpc.ucl.ac.uk. Since some infants with perinatally acquired HIV are diagnosed in later childhood, further reports are expected, particularly for 2006 and 2007.

Source:

National Study of HIV in Pregnancy and Childhood, reports to June 2008

Skin Cancer

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what statistics his Department collects on the outcome of operations for skin cancer conducted by general practitioners; [224449]

(2) what the *(a)* training, *(b)* accountability, *(c)* audit and *(d)* governance arrangements are for GPs carrying out surgical treatments of skin cancer. [224491]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts can enter into arrangements with a primary medical services contractor to carry out minor surgery, provided the contractor meets minimum requirements as set out in Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (England) Directions 2007. This includes requirements regarding training, accountability, audit and governance arrangements.

There is a nationally mandated accreditation process for general practitioners with special interest (GPwSIs). This is underpinned by a series of speciality specific guidance including one for dermatology and skin surgery.

Statistical information on the outcomes of operations for skin cancer conducted by general practitioners is not collected centrally.

Social Services: Foreign Workers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people born outside the UK were employed in the care-related sector in each of the last 10 years. [222413]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the place of birth of workers in the care-related sector is not held centrally.

Social Services: Powers of Entry

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department received on the grant to council staff of powers to enter private homes during its review of care law; and what work the Law Commission is undertaking on the issue. [222788]

Dawn Primarolo: No representations have been received by the Department. No decisions have been made on the extent of the Law Commission's review of social care law. Terms of reference for any possible future work by the Law Commission have yet to be drafted and agreed between the Department and the Law Commission.

Social Services: Vetting

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether care providers are informed when Criminal Records Bureau checks on their prospective employees are discovered not to have been correctly carried out; what estimate he has made of the number of such checks; and whether he plans to provide compensation to care providers for such cases. [222442]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

All the quality control procedures at the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) are geared to achieving the highest levels of accuracy. In addition, the CRB carries out a post disclosure accuracy check that analyses all aspects of the disclosure application and its issue. This check was introduced in 2007 and is based on a statistical sample of disclosure applications and from that sample it can be ascertained that the accuracy rate for 2006-07 is 99.94 per cent. and for 2007-08 is 99.98 per cent. No comparative data are available before these dates and the CRB does not collate information by specific sectors such as the care sector or providers.

If, as a result of this additional check, the CRB needs to correct a Disclosure, it does so free of charge to the employer and the applicant.

The CRB operates a central database in order to record transactions that occur during the disclosure process, where applicants' personal data provided on an application form are compared against information held by the police, the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Although

the CRB has access to conviction and other information through this process, the police and the other data sources above are the data owners of material held on their respective databases and as such are responsible for the accuracy of information held thereon.

As with any public sector organisation the CRB operates a Redress scheme where there has been maladministration.

South East

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on services, broken down by type in *(a)* Dartford borough, *(b)* Kent Thameside, *(c)* the Thames Gateway, *(d)* Kent county council area and *(e)* the South East region in each of the last five years. [222450]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department allocates almost all national health service funding directly to primary care trusts (PCTs), which are responsible for using their resources to commission healthcare services that meet the needs of their local population.

Information about NHS expenditure is not available in the format requested. However, information is available about commissioning expenditure by PCTs in the South East Coast strategic health authority (SHA) area, and figures for the financial years 2002-03 through to 2006-07 have been placed in the Library. 2006-07 is the most recent year for which data is available.

In the tables placed in the Library, the figures given for gross expenditure on primary healthcare include expenditure on primary care dental services only in 2006-07. Prior to the introduction of local commissioning arrangements for primary dental care on 1 April 2006, most general dental services expenditure was accounted for by the former Dental Practice Board on a national basis only. However, some information on primary dental care expenditure in individual PCT or health authority areas is available for earlier years. The Information Centre for health and social care published the report "NHS Expenditure for General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services: England 1997-98 2005-06 on 26 March 2008. A copy has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalexpend1997to2006.

The report includes information on primary dental care expenditure by PCT and SHA for 1997-98 to 2005-06 at Tables A1 and B1 of Annex 3. Table A1 relates to 'gross' expenditure and table B1 relates to 'net' expenditure. Gross expenditure refers to the full cost of the payments recorded; net expenditure reflects the cost of these payments to the NHS after the deduction of income from NHS dental charges paid by patients.

This information is based on the old dental contractual arrangements that were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. While the information is not directly comparable with resource accounts data for the earlier years or current data on the new framework of locally commissioned dental services effective since 1 April 2006, it does reflect the major elements of primary dental care expenditure in each area. Further notes to aid interpretation of the information are shown in the 'Contents and Notes' page of Annex 3 of the Information Centre report.

The Department also sets the strategic framework for adult social care and influences local authority spending on social care. Resources and funding for local authorities/councils are allocated from the Government and distributed by the Department for Communities and Local Government. This contributes to the resources available to local authorities, alongside the collection of council tax and fees and charges. It is the responsibility of local authorities to allocate resources for adult social care in order to meet local needs, priorities and key local and national objectives.

In addition, the Department has made specific revenue grants available to local authorities to meet policy objectives. From 2008-09, the Department mainly allocates personal social services (PSS) grant funding to local authorities/councils through the area based grant. Area based grants are monies that central Government has pooled, and it is not possible for the Department to place any restrictions on how local authorities use this funding.

The Department does not hold data on PSS grants below local authority level. A breakdown of revenue and capital PSS grants allocated by the Department to Kent council in the last five years (2004-05 to 2008-09) and similar details for the South East region, which includes Kent council, have been placed in the Library.

Speech Impairment: Children

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of three and four-year olds have received a pre-school assessment of speech and language abilities in the last 12 months. [223761]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on treatment received from speech language therapists (SLT) provided by the national health service is not collected centrally. The Department collects data by consultant led specialties. SLT is not a consultant led speciality. The Government's objective is to balance the need for data against the burden that data collection places on the NHS.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222171]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has a number of policies and procedures in place to reduce stress at work. Our internal guidance on how to reduce stress at work, based on the principles of the Health and Safety Executive's management standards, is available to all employees and gives easy-to-use advice on the successful prevention and management of stress at work. We are also developing a Mental Health policy which will be launched in autumn this year.

Syringes: Injuries

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many days NHS nurses were absent from work owing to needle stick injuries in the last 12 months. [222812]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the number of days of absence relating to needle stick injuries to national health service nurses are not collected centrally. However, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) collects information on surveillance of significant occupational exposures to blood borne viruses in health care workers in the United Kingdom; its latest report is available on the HPA's website at:

www.camr.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1205394781623.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of cost to the NHS of *(a)* treatment and *(b)* follow-up of a needle stick injury to a member of staff where the needle is known to have been used on a HIV-positive patient. [222813]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of a course of antiviral drugs for HIV post-exposure prophylaxis, as recommended in the Department's publication, "HIV post-exposure prophylaxis: Guidance from the UK Chief Medical Officers' Expert Advisory Group on AIDS", is about £680. Follow up will vary depending on case by case needs and cost estimates are therefore not available centrally.

A copy of this guidance has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_088185

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to monitor each NHS trust's adherence to section 10e of the Code of Practice for the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections issued under the Health Act 2006, with particular reference to the requirement to prevent needle stick injuries through the provision of medical devices incorporating sharps protection mechanisms. [222815]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the duty of the Healthcare Commission to monitor adherence by trusts of 'The Health Act 2006 code of practice for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections'. However, the use of devices which incorporate sharps protection mechanisms is not mandatory. Trusts have to consider the use of these devices but are not obliged to use them. Although these devices are designed to reduce needle stick injuries the evidence is not complete and providers find that such devices are not acceptable to their staff and can reduce safety.

Syringes: Procurement

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS Trusts purchase medical devices incorporating sharps protection mechanisms through the NHS supply chain. [222814]

Mr. Bradshaw: A total of 241 trusts purchase medical devices incorporating sharps protection mechanisms through NHS Supply Chain.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223033]

Mr. Bradshaw: For the financial year April 2007 to March 2008, the amount spent on taxis for the Department is £331,192.43. We do not have figures for the whole of the financial year April 2007 to March 2008 for our Executive agencies. For the financial year April 2006 to March 2007, the amount spent on taxis for NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency is £242.30 and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is £16,125.21.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to introduce additional programmes over the next academic year for students in the further education sector to raise awareness of unwanted pregnancies amongst young people. [222634]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply:

In 2007, DCSF and DH issued guidance to FE colleges and primary care trusts (PCTs) on setting up sexual health advice services in FE settings. Such services serve to improve young people's access to early advice and treatment, by locating services in places that fit with young people's daily lives. A mapping survey in 2008 established that around 80 per cent. of FE colleges now have on-site services. The scope of each service is determined locally by the college's governing body, in negotiation with the PCT which provides the necessary health professional input. In some colleges, provision is limited to condom distribution schemes, whereas in others a wider range of services are available, including pregnancy testing, STI screening, and provision of a broad range of contraception, including emergency contraception.

Unlike schools, colleges are not required to provide sex education, although the majority of colleges do cover sexual health issues within their tutorial programmes.

More broadly, DH announced in July that it would be developing a 'Healthy Colleges' initiative that would put in place a framework—based on the National Healthy Schools programme—to allow FE colleges to better respond to the health needs of their students. Consultation is now underway with colleges, FE students and other stakeholders to determine the detailed design and implementation strategy for the 'Healthy Colleges' initiative.

Termination of Pregnancy Bill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of representations received by his Department from interested parties used in the preparation of the partial regulatory impact assessment for the Termination of Pregnancy Bill of Session 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [222236]

Dawn Primarolo: Copies of written representations received from interested parties used in the preparation of the partial regulatory impact assessment of the Termination of Pregnancy Bill of Session 2006-07 have been placed in the Library, as requested.

Interviews were also held with a number of organisations, including some of those who made written representations, but the Department does not hold a formal record of these. However, some of the information obtained from those discussions was used to develop the partial regulatory impact assessment

Vaccination: Greater London

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the backlog in vaccinations in London due to the performance of the child health interim application. [222441]

Dawn Primarolo: No single estimate has been made of the number of children who may have missed immunisations as a direct result of the child health interim application (CHIA).

Each primary care trust (PCT) in London using CHIA has carried out an audit of the accuracy of the data held on their systems in 2007-08. These audits have been undertaken at different times and therefore are not directly comparable. The audits have allowed the identification of children who may have missed vaccinations or who have been vaccinated and the information not acknowledged, and PCTs are taking action locally to ensure that these children are offered the appropriate vaccinations.

In addition to information stored on CHIA, immunisations can also be identified in other ways such as the use of general practice data systems and individual children's immunisation records (known as the "Red Book") held by parents. The 'CHIA' PCTs are continuing to work closely with general practices and local health professionals to ensure that children are immunised at the appropriate time. The Department is kept updated on progress by these PCTs.

CHIA is in the process of being replaced this year by a new Electronic Care Record system which will enable full immunisation scheduling and recording.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Autism: Intimidation

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of bullying on children with autism. [222581]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has recently commissioned Goldsmiths College to undertake research on the effectiveness of our anti-bullying strategies. This research will provide the necessary quantitative and qualitative data needed to draw robust conclusions about the efficacy of different anti-bullying strategies, including those affecting children with special educational needs and disabilities. The findings will be reported to the Department in summer 2009 and summer 2010.

Autism: Mental Health Services

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with autism or Asperger's syndrome accessed child and adolescent mental health services in each of the last 10 years. [222579]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally.

The annual child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) mapping includes a snapshot of the children and young people using CAMHS and what diagnosis is recorded. The latest findings are in figs. 11.73 and 11.74 on page 116 of "A profile of child health, child and adolescent mental health and maternity services in England 2007". A copy has been placed in the Library.

Table 8.11 on page 202 of the Office for National Statistics publication "Mental health of children and young people in Great Britain, 2004" shows the percentages of children seeking help from CAMHS in 2004 and whether the child had an autistic spectrum disorder. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* original expected completion date and *(b)* current expected completion date is of each Building Schools for the Future project; and what the reasons are for delays in completion of projects in each case where there is a delay. [223734]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future is the most ambitious school building programme for a generation. As you would expect of a programme of this scale, there have been challenges and lessons have been learned from the early projects. These have led to improvements in the process supporting the delivery of BSF and in local authority preparations for joining the programme. The key reasons for the delays in some of the early local authority projects are as follows:

many local authorities in the early waves of the programme found identifying and resourcing the necessary project management skill sets to deliver the programme more challenging than expected;

a focus on "getting it right" to ensure that strategies are educationally transformational rather than simply focusing on pace of delivery has led to some authorities taking longer than originally expected to develop their education and procurement strategies; and

in the early waves the selected local authorities had the biggest challenges to manage, were pioneering the processes, and were at the forefront of resolving unexpected difficulties with innovative solutions.

The following table provides a comparison between the original expected project completion date and the current expected date for each local authority in the first three waves of BSF. Where specific local issues have impacted on the delivery timetable, these are also described.

Local authority	*Original expected project completion date*	*Current expected project completion date*	*Major reasons for delay*
Wave 1			
Bradford	December 2007	September 2008	Challenging original completion expectations; Issues around use of untested processes
Bristol	April 2008	January 2009	Challenging original completion expectations; Issues around use of untested processes
Greenwich	April 2009	September 2011	Piloting of non-standard BSF procurement model by local authority has been problematic and has caused considerable delay; Local resourcing difficulties; Issues around use of untested processes

Local authority	Original expected project completion date	Current expected project completion date	Major reasons for delay
Knowsley	September 2009	January 2010	Issues around use of untested processes
Lancashire	September 2010	August 2010	—
Leeds	September 2010	September 2011	Issues around use of untested processes
Leicester	September 2011	September 2011	—
Lewisham	July 2010	September 2010	Issues around use of untested processes
Manchester	September 2009	June 2011	Challenging original completion expectations; Issues around use of untested processes; later project rescoping, including integrating seven new academies
Newcastle	March 2011	March 2011	—
Newham	January 2009	March 2011	Challenging original completion expectations; Issues around use of untested processes; Local resourcing difficulties
Sheffield	March 2010	April 2011	Challenging original completion expectations; Issues around use of untested processes
Solihull	September 2008	September 2009	Challenging original completion expectations; Issues around use of untested processes
STaG	December 2012	January 2013	Issues around use of untested processes
Sunderland	Jan 2010	September 2010	Challenging original completion expectations; Issues around use of untested processes
Waltham Forest	September 2008	September 2008	—
Wave 2			
Birmingham	September 2010	September 2011	Challenging original completion expectations; Local resourcing difficulties; More time taken to develop transformational strategy; later project rescoping, including integrating new academies
Hackney	September 2013	November 2013	Issues around use of untested processes
Haringey	March 2011	October 2011	Issues around use of untested processes
Islington	September 2011	September 2012	Local resourcing difficulties; More time taken to develop transformational strategy
Kingston-upon-Hull	September 2014	September 2014	—
Lambeth	September 2010	September 2010	—
Liverpool	September 2010	September 2011	Local resourcing difficulties; More time taken to develop transformational strategy; Issues around use of untested processes; Piloting of non-standard BSF procurement model by local authority has caused some delay
Middlesbrough	September 2011	September 2012	Local resourcing difficulties; changes to procurement strategy to achieve a better value for money outcome caused some delay
Nottingham	December 2010	December 2010	—
Tower Hamlets	June 2011	December 2011	Local resourcing difficulties; More time taken to develop transformational strategy
Wave 3			
Barnsley	September 2011	September 2011	—
Bradford	August 2010	August 2010	—
Derbyshire	August 2011	August 2011	—
Durham	September 2011	September 2011	—
Kent	April 2011	July 2011	—
Luton	September 2010	November 2012	Local resourcing difficulties; Issues around identifying new sites for new schools have caused delay to the project
N Lincs	June 2011	April 2012	Local resourcing difficulties; More time taken to develop transformational strategy
Salford	January 2012	September 2012	More time taken to develop transformational strategy
Sandwell	March 2011	July 2011	More time taken to develop transformational strategy
Southwark	November 2014	April 2014	—
Tameside	January 2011	February 2011	More time taken to develop transformational strategy
Westminster	December 2010	November 2010	—

Notes:
1. Formal baseline dates were only set for the first wave. Expected completion dates for projects beyond wave 3 are not confirmed until the outline business case is approved.
2. Stoke, a Wave 1 project, is currently reviewing the proposals and timelines put forward in its outline business case following the Children's Services going into intervention and therefore has not been included as the expected finish date has not been finalised.

Child Minding

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered childminders there were in each region in each quarter of the last three years. [223747]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is shown in the table.

Number[1,2] of registered childminders for children under eight years of age, position at each quarter from 2005/06 to 2008/09, by Government Office Region in England

	2005/06				2006/07				2007/08				2008/09
	Apr to Jun	Jul to Sep	Oct to Dec	Jan to Mar	Apr to Jun	Jul to Sep	Oct to Dec	Jan to Mar	Apr to Jun	Jul to Sep	Oct to Dec	Jan to Mar	Apr to Jun
England	70,900	71,100	71,500	71,600	71,600	71,200	71,500	69,900	68,300	67,400	65,800	64,600	64,300
North East	3,500	3,500	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,400	3,200	3,200	3,100	3,100
North West England	8,300	8,300	8,300	8,300	8,300	8,200	8,200	8,100	7,800	7,600	7,500	7,400	7,300
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,700	6,500	6,400	6,200	6,100	6,000	5,900
East Midlands	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,800	5,700	5,600	5,400	5,400
West Midlands	6,400	6,400	6,300	6,200	6,200	6,300	6,200	6,200	6,000	5,900	5,700	5,600	5,500
East of England	8,500	8,600	8,600	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,300	8,200	7,800	7,700	7,700
Inner London	3,500	3,500	3,600	3,600	3,700	3,700	3,800	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,600	3,500	3,500
Outer London	8,000	8,100	8,100	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,000	7,800	7,800	7,600	7,400	7,400
South East England	13,600	13,500	13,700	13,800	13,700	13,500	13,700	13,200	12,900	12,900	12,700	12,500	12,500
South West England	6,600	6,600	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,600	6,600	6,400	6,200	6,200	6,100	6,000	6,000

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted

Children in Care

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in *(a)* foster care, *(b)* children's homes, *(c)* residential special schools and *(d)* juvenile secure establishments in England in the last 12 months (i) saw a family member at least once a week in that period and (ii) had no contact with their family in that period. [221778]

Ed Balls: We do not collect figures on the level of contact that children in foster care, children's homes, residential special schools or juvenile secure establishments in England have had in the last 12 months with their family. However, Paragraph 15 of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 places a duty on the local authority in respect of all looked after children to promote contact between the child and his/her parents, friends, relatives and others unless this is not reasonably practicable or consistent with the child's welfare. Rule 29(2) of the Secure Training Centre Rules and Rule 39(2) of the Young Offender Institution Rules provide that the governor shall ensure that special attention is paid to the maintenance of such relations between a trainee and his family as seem desirable in the best interests of the trainee.

Children in Care: Health Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to maximise the beneficial effects of the NHS operating framework for 2008-09 on the health and well-being of looked-after children. [223944]

Beverley Hughes: The NHS Operating Framework outlines a clear expectation that PCTs will pay particular attention to access for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. This should include looked after children. The framework is underpinned by guidance including the guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) which states that looked after children should be taken into consideration when identifying the future health and wellbeing needs of local populations. The framework also states that the Healthcare Commission will specifically consider access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provision when carrying out performance assessment of NHS bodies. The beneficial effects of this framework will be maximised by ensuring that the forthcoming statutory guidance on the health of looked after children reinforces the framework's commitments and outlines exactly how health bodies should ensure that looked after children lead healthy lives. We will also maximise the beneficial effects by seeking to ensure that the data generated to measure the national indicator on the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children is used by local authorities and health bodies to inform how they ensure timely access to high quality mental health services for these children.

Children: Communication Skills

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children who have received a pre-school assessment of speech and language in the last 12 months were referred for speech and language issues. [223980]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect this data. The importance of early identification and assessment featured strongly in the recently published report of the Review of Services for Children and Young People (0-19) with Speech, Language and Communication Needs, undertaken by the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow)—a copy of which can be accessed at

www.dcsf.gov.uk/bercowreview

The Government have welcomed the Bercow report and have announced an investment of £12 million to help enable action to be taken forward in the areas it highlighted. Later this year, we will produce a detailed action plan setting out how we will implement the Bercow recommendations, over what time scale, and how we will allocate the funds we are investing.

We have also introduced the Early Years Foundation Stage framework to help practitioners and teachers in early years settings meet the learning and development and needs (including speech and language) of all children. Through additional investment of £40 million, we have also introduced the "Every Child a Talker (ECAT)" programme—which will give practitioners easier access to training and materials so that they are better equipped to support children's early language development, including identifying potential delays and disorders early on.

Children: Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 25-27WS, on data handling procedures, if he will commission a privacy impact assessment for the ContactPoint database. [222189]

Beverley Hughes: We have no plans to commission a privacy impact assessment for the ContactPoint project which is currently in testing phase. Our preferred approach is to continue our ongoing engagement with the Information Commissioner's Office and with children, young people, parents and carers both at a national and a local level, to ensure that any concerns about privacy are addressed and that the benefits that ContactPoint will bring are fully explained.

It is important that children, young people and their families have confidence in the way ContactPoint protects their privacy. That is why the data held on ContactPoint will be minimal to enable it to fulfil its purpose - to provide a quick and easy way for practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child.

ContactPoint will contain no case information—for example, school attainment records or medical case notes—nor will it include subjective opinions, comments or observations about a child or their parents.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the reasons are for the delay in the implementation of ContactPoint; and what the cost to the public purse of *(a)* that delay and *(b)* implementation in full will be. [223744]

Beverley Hughes: The Government have always been clear that they would take a steady, staged approach to developing ContactPoint including subjecting the system to rigorous testing.

Recent testing of the system has highlighted some usability issues that we want to resolve before we embark on testing the ContactPoint system with users. In order to address these issues thoroughly, I decided not to start Early Adopter deployment in October 2008 as planned. It is both prudent and sensible to take a little more time to ensure the system is ready before we deploy it to local authorities and national partners.

We expect to meet the cost of full implementation from the existing budget, which remains unchanged at £224 million, since it was announced by my right hon. Friend the Member for Stretford and Urmston (Beverley Hughes) in December 2005.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 823-24W, on children: day care, how many senior managers on average a local authority nursery had at the most recent date for which figures are available. [223762]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers survey collects information on staff type in childcare and early years providers. Table 1 shows the total and average number of senior managers working in full day care settings, by type of ownership of the setting in 2007.

Table 1: Number of senior managers in full day care providers, by ownership of provision, 2007

	Private	Voluntary	Local authority	School/college	Other	Total
Total number of senior managers	8,700	2,700	800	900	300	13,400
Average number of senior managers per setting	1	1	1	1	1	1

Note:
Numbers by type of ownership may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Children: Disadvantaged

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children assessed as being at risk of exclusion are entered on school registers as educated off-site and B-code; and how many hours per week of education such children receive on average. [222835]

Beverley Hughes: We do not collect data on B-codes (i.e. children at an approved educational activity off-site) from schools because this code does not mean that the pupil is absent from education for that session. The concept of "at risk of exclusion" is rather subjective, and therefore not subject to precise measurement, so we therefore do not collect statistics of children at risk of exclusion and cannot give figures for children at risk of exclusion educated off site.

Children: Nutrition

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to assist schools to encourage parents to provide healthy meals for children. [224288]

Beverley Hughes: The School Food Trust (SFT), on behalf of the Department, is taking a number of steps to assist schools to encourage parents to provide healthy meals for children. The SFT parent's forum is an electronic message board where parents can communicate with each other about school food. Access to the forum is via

http://forum.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/forum/people.php.

The SFT has also produced a booklet and a leaflet especially for parents and carers, which clearly lays out what the standards on school lunches mean and how parents can play a part in transforming school food. In addition the SFT has information and guidance on how to prepare healthy and varied packed lunches including some menu ideas and case studies.

'Let's Get Cooking' is a network of cookery clubs for young people and parents funded by the Big Lottery Fund and led by the School Food Trust in partnership with well-known organisations with experience in food skills and campaigning, including the Prince's Trust, Business in the Community, Magic Outcomes and the Improvement Foundation. The aim of 'Let's Get Cooking' is to give children and non-cooking parents of all ages the skills and confidence to cook nutritious and tasty meals from scratch, outside of school hours. More information can be found at

http://www.letsgetcooking.org.uk/Home.

Children: Obesity

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to address childhood obesity. [222677]

Beverley Hughes: In the six months since the £372 million 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: a Cross Government Strategy for England' was published there has been substantial progress. The progress newsletter 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: 6 months on', was published on 23 July 2008.

The newsletter highlights the steps forward for the next six months across all five themes of the strategy: children, healthy growth and weight; promoting healthier food choices; building physical activity into our lives; creating incentives for better health; and personalised advice and support for all.

Children's Centres

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children's centres were operated by organisations other than the relevant local authority in each year since such centres were introduced. [223981]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities, working with their partners through children's trust arrangements, are responsible for the delivery of the Sure Start Children's Centres in their local area. However we encourage them to involve voluntary, private and independent organisations both in managing children's centres and as service providers in order to harness the best of all sectors in delivering quality services for children. Information is not collected centrally on how many and what proportion of Sure Start Children's Centres are run by organisations on behalf of local authorities.

Children's Centres: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's centres there are in *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency, *(b)* Great Grimsby constituency, *(c)* North East Lincolnshire and *(d)* North Lincolnshire; how many are planned to be opened in each area; how much was spent on such centres in each of the last three years; and how much will be spent in the next 18 months. [222783]

Beverley Hughes: There are currently *(a)* two Sure Start Children's Centres in Cleethorpes,(b) nine Centres in Great Grimsby, *(c)* 12 centres in North East Lincolnshire with a further two planned and *(d)* 11 centres in North Lincolnshire with a further one planned.

The two centres planned in North East Lincolnshire are currently at the initial public consultation stage with the local authority looking at sites in Old Clee, Humberston and New Waltham, which fall within the Cleethorpes constituency.

Details of expenditure and expenditure are given below. It is not possible to provide a break-down of these figures for an 18 month period as information is not collected using this timescale.

	Expenditure (£)		*Allocation*				
	2004-06[1]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
North East Lincolnshire							
Revenue	320,855	717,421	761,802	1,652,922	2,353,616	2,766,764	8,573,380
Capital	3,138,179	965,160	2,537,211	439,100	55,442	58,339	7,193,431
Total	3,459,034	1,682,581	3,299,013	2,092,022	2,409,058	2,825,103	15,766,811
North Lincolnshire							
Revenue	357,856	775,491	751,530	1,562,893	2,109,512	2,464,154	8,021,436
Capital	477,655	1,288,217	1,234,449	248,712	520,405	307,738	4,077,176
Total	835,511	2,063,708	1,985,979	1,811,605	2,629,917	2,771,892	12,098,612

[1] 2004-06 was a two year spending period.

Classroom Assistants: Manpower

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching assistants there were in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223814]

Jim Knight: The available information on the number of full-time equivalent teaching assistants in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Full-time equivalent teaching assistants[1]
2004	15,420
2005	16,680
2006	17,330
2007	17,920
2008	19,280

[1] Includes teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools only.

Further details can be found in the in the Statistical First Release "School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2008 (Provisional)":

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000787

published in April 2008.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department and its predecessor have participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul flights. [221994]

Beverley Hughes: The Department's predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills, first contributed to the Government Carbon Offsetting fund for its 2006/07 air travel and reported the following mileage:

	Kilometres
(a) Domestic flights	[1]0
(b) Short-haul flights	945,414
(c) Long-haul flights	837,050

[1] Could not be separated from *(b)*

Figures for 2007/08 for the Department are currently being cleared for submission within the annual return on Sustainable Development in Government.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether those staff of his Department who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to *(a)* travel in a cheaper class to the destination and *(b)* benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [222004]

Beverley Hughes: The class of air travel which staff may book depends upon grade, the length of time the journey will take, as well as airlines' fare structures on various routes. Whether or not a member of staff is entitled to travel first class or business class, all members of DCSF have a responsibility to make appropriate decisions on how to travel and to secure value for money in the use of travel budgets. DCSF members of staff are permitted to travel in a cheaper class to the destination although any saving would not generate a monetary or in kind benefit for the individual.

All travel undertaken by DCSF staff is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the 'Civil Service Management Code' and Treasury guidance set out in 'Managing Public Money' on the avoidance of personal profit from public business. DCSF has a travel service contract with a travel agent for all flight bookings, the costs being paid centrally. DCSF staff are expected to use the contract, whenever possible, when booking any travel tickets.

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the location is of each office occupied by his Department and its predecessor which has been *(a)* newly occupied and *(b)* refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222001]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families do not have any locations which have been newly occupied and refurbished in the last 24 months.

Departmental Circulars

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish a list of circulars issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* schools by his Department in the academic year 2007-08. [223838]

Beverley Hughes: The information is as follows:

(a) In 2007-08, the Department sent a weekly e-mail to the 150 local authorities in England. All e-mails can be downloaded from the Department's local authorities website at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/

(b) A regular fortnightly e-mail was sent to schools to inform them of new publications. In addition, the newsletter "Spectrum" provides schools, head teachers and chairs of governors with a summary of all the latest resources, publications, guidance and regulations. It is available online and can also be requested in paper copy.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many notifications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies made to the Information Commissioner following the loss or mishandling of personal information or data in each of the last three years; and what was notified in each case. [222906]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families published details of notifications to the Information Commissioner's Office in its resource accounts

published on 16 July 2008. There was, in fact, an error in these accounts: two instances were reported whereas there was only one; the second will be reported next year and the 2007-08 accounts amended. The correctly notified loss was of a laptop, encrypted to Cabinet Office guidelines. Before November 2007 the Information Commissioner's Office did not specifically keep records of instances of security breaches.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in Government.

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [222003]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not currently hold a licence for either MOSAIC or ACORN data. The Department has previously used ACORN data under licence to supplement our existing data sources by combining the Department's data with the characteristics of the people who live in local areas. Examples of how we have used this information to analyse pupil attainment are published on the Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway

Information about the extent to which the Department's NDPBs make use of either MOSAIC or ACORN data can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223053]

Beverley Hughes: The disciplinary breaches in the Department in the last 12 months have included repeated unauthorised absence, unauthorised absence and failure to keep in touch while absent, serious failure to follow proper business procedures and breaches of civil service standards of behaviour. The Department has taken the appropriate steps in these cases including dismissal, written warnings, a written reprimand and removal from posts.

I am unable to provide specific information on the five most serious cases and steps taken due to the confidential nature of each case.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on freelance press officers in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [222710]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has spent the following on freelance press officers since 2001:

	£000
2004-05	8
2005-06	96
2006-07	81
2007-08	43

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many freelance press officers his Department and its predecessors employed in each year since 2001. [222711]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has employed freelance press officers between 2001 and 2008 as follows:

	Number
2004-05	1
2005-06	2
2006-07	2
2007-08	1

No Freelance Press Officers have been used since March 2008.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many marketing officers *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority employed in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [222708]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was established in June 2007 and currently employs the full-time equivalent of 16.7 marketing officers. It is not possible except at disproportionate cost to identify the number of marketing officers previously employed by the Department for Education and Skills. The Department does not hold information on non-departmental public bodies.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on employing marketing officers in each year since 2001. [222709]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was established in June 2007 and currently employs the full-time equivalent of 16.7 Marketing Officers at a cost of £906,085 per annum. It is not possible except at disproportionate cost to identify the costs of Marketing Officers previously employed by the Department for Education and Skills.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advertising campaigns his Department has run between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [223717]

Jim Knight: The DFES's total spend on advertising campaigns was:

	£
2000-01	29,110,000
2001-02	17,665,000
2002-03	13,790,000
2003-04	20,170,000

Campaigns over £500,000 are:

	£
2000-01	
Don't Quit Now	2,700,000
New deal 50 plus	2,400,000
ICT Employability	2,011,000
Childcare Recruitment	1,821,000
Parent's Magazine	1,484,000
Disability Discrimination	1,242,000
Fast Track Teachers	1,056,000
Modern Apprenticeships	856,000
Individual Learning Accounts	612,000
2001-02	
Adult Basic Skills 'Get on'	5,096,143
Childcare recruitment	2,504,000
Science Year 2001/02	1,803,000
Excellence Challenge	1,750,000
Modern Apprenticeships	1,670,000
Foundation Degree	1,325,000
Fast Track Teachers	1,250,000
Millennium Volunteers	848,000
Parents' Magazine	770,000
New Deal 25+	633,000
2002-03	
Adult Basic Skills	5,478,117
Childcare Recruitment	2,741,377
Aim Higher	2,649,999
Connexions	1,320,331
HE Funding	655,000
Foundation Degree	549,397
2003-04	
Adult Basic Skills	6,672,938
Aim Higher	4,190,018
Childcare Recruitment	2,986,659
Foundation Degrees	2,813,787
Connexions	2,608,005

It is not possible, except at disproportionate expense, to provide a more detailed breakdown for actual dates for when each campaign ran, other than detailing the financial year within which the expenditure occurred.

The Department ran a number of campaigns in support of its key delivery priorities, in order to inform target audiences of how they were affected by DFES policies. All of DFES campaigns followed the guidelines which govern Government information on issues of propriety and cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on entertainment in each of the last five years. [219256]

Beverley Hughes: Details of expenditure on entertainment incurred by the Department are as follows:

2007-08: £16,467

The figure includes expenditure incurred by Ministers and senior departmental officials. The figure excludes costs incurred as part of official events or formal meetings held to further departmental business.

The basic rules governing hospitality are set by HM Treasury. Hospitality expenditure is limited to occasions when official business can best be transacted in that way. Personal entertainment is usually restricted to where senior managers (deputy director or above) are acting as a host and expenditure must be approved in advance by a director or executive board member.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a Machinery of Government change and the expenditure recorded above includes that of its predecessor Department, the Department for Education and Skills. The expenditure will also include any costs incurred by the newly created Department for Universities, Innovation and Skills, where these costs relate to areas formerly the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222008]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families provides no permanent residential accommodation for use by civil servants of any grade.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [221997]

Ed Balls: The Department's finance system can only produce a list of all organisations including commercial and non-commercial organisations that have received a payment from the Department. We would, however, have to consider, on an individual basis, whether or not disclosure of that information might prejudice the commercial interests of the Department or the relevant organisation, and that could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222002]

Ed Balls: The Department uses marketing companies for raising public awareness on specific issues. Public relations agencies are employed for specific communications tasks, most commonly working alongside our press office to provide campaign support in local, regional and specialist media.

The expenditure figures in the following table relate to the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework and have been provided on a financial year basis, following guidance provided centrally by the Cabinet Office.

£

Company	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Band and Brown Communications	19,616	—	158,886	126,868
Blue Rubicon Ltd.	—	83,378	184,057	185,024
Cohn and Wolfe	—	250,000	—	—
Consolidated Communications Management Ltd.	476,711	763,718	102,722	—
Fishburn Hedges	—	—	71,396	52,652
Geronimo Communications	—	—	—	35,815
JFL Search and Selection	—	209,849	48,660	—
Portfolio Metrica Ltd.	—	6,325	—	—
Team Talk Training	—	—	—	18,392
The Red Consultancy Ltd.	—	59,880	458,531	143,280
Total	496,327	1,373,150	1,024,252	562,031

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many staff in his Department and its predecessors have been seconded to public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies in each of the last five years; [222187]

(2) how many staff from public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies have been seconded to his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years. [222190]

Kevin Brennan: Since my Department was formed as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007, no staff have been seconded to or from public relations or public affairs firms, or consultancies.

Information for the previous years regarding the predecessor Department (the Department for Education and Skills) is not available.

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications his Department and its predecessor have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to *(a)* undertake directed surveillance, *(b)* use covert human intelligence sources, *(c)* acquire communications data and *(d)* undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [222000]

Ed Balls: Figures on public authority use of covert techniques controlled by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') are published annually by the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner, each of whom has particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the House Library on 22 July. The figures provided in the reports are not broken down by individual public authority use of specific covert technique as, depending on the particular technique and authority using it, this could either reveal sensitivities or be misleading. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant Commissioner.

Economic and Monetary Union

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 638W, on economic and monetary union, if he will place in the Library a copy of the last version of the plan. [222188]

Beverley Hughes: A copy of the last plan has been placed in the Library.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contracts his Department has with EDF; and how much his Department paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221847]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 and has a contract with EDF for the provision of electricity to all of its Headquarter buildings. During 2007-08 the sum paid under this contract was £1,659,305. Contracts prior to this date relate to the former Department for Education and Skills.

Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant in each year since 2004-05; how much is allocated for each of the next three years; what the purpose of the grant is; and if he will make a statement. [223889]

Jim Knight: The Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) is a ring-fenced grant allocated to all local authorities on a needs-based formula. The grant has two purposes:

(i) it allows LA strategic managers and schools to bring about whole-school change in narrowing achievement gaps for Black and minority ethnic pupils which in turn ensures equality of outcomes; and

(ii) it covers some of the costs of additional support to meet the specific needs of bilingual learners and underachieving pupils.

The following has been spent on EMAG since 2004:

	£ million
2004-05	162
2005-06	170
2006-07	174
2007-08	179

The following has been allocated for each of the next three years:

	£ million
2008-09	188
2009-10	198
2010-11	206

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222271]

Beverley Hughes: The Joint International Unit (JIU) supports both the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills by promoting and defending the interests of the two Departments on EU business; overseeing the delivery of EU education; training and youth programmes; and fulfilling our treaty obligations in respect of European Schools. A total of 15 JIU staff work on this EU business for the two Departments.

Exams: Special Educational Needs

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of children classified as having *(a)* hearing and *(b)* vision impairment achieved the national standard in key stage (i) 1, (ii) 2 and (iii) 3 tests in each year since the introduction of the tests; [223755]

(2) how many and what proportion of children classified as having *(a)* hearing and *(b)* vision impairment achieved five A* to C grades in their GCSE exams in each of the last 10 years; [223756]

(3) how many and what proportion of children classified as having *(a)* hearing and *(b)* vision impairment achieved five A* to C grades including mathematics and English in their GCSE exams in each of the last 10 years. [223757]

Jim Knight: The Department only collects data by type of special educational need for children at School Action Plus or with statements. School Action Plus, under the SEN Code of Practice, enables a school to receive some external help to meet a child's SEN. An SEN statement is drawn up by a local authority, following an assessment, when it is necessary to determine the special educational provision which a child's learning difficulties call for.

The available 2007 information is attached to the Statistical First Release (SFR) National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07.

KS2 can be found in Table 73 (key stage 2 attainment by SEN stage and primary SEN type) and at KS4 is in Table 74 (key stage 4 attainment for pupils at School Action Plus or with statements by primary SEN type). This information can be found at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/SFR38_2007_Additional_100708.xls.

A similar analysis was also carried out in 2006 and the relevant information is given as follows.

This information is not available for years before 2005 when type of SEN information for pupils was not collected. Information for 2005 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Having published this data in 2007, the Department will publish it for subsequent years when the data are available.

The analysis only relates to the primary SEN type of pupils. Some of these children may also have a secondary SEN type which has not been taken into consideration in the analysis.

Percentage of pupils achieving level 2 or above in key stage 1 assessments

Number of pupils with a hearing impairment at School Action Plus = 505

Number of pupils with a visual impairment at School Action Plus = 320

Number of pupils with a hearing impairment with statements = 415

Number of pupils with a visual impairment with statements = 230

	Reading	*Writing*	*Maths*	*Science*
School Action Plus				
Hearing impairment	73	65	80	78
Visual impairment	64	58	75	73
Statement				
Hearing impairment	40	34	53	45
Visual impairment	52	51	62	61

Note:
Figures relate to seven-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in maintained schools.

Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above at key stage 2 tests

	English		*Maths*		*Science*	
	Percentage achieving Level 4+	*Total eligible pupils*	*Percentage achieving Level 4+*	*Total eligible pupils*	*Percentage achieving Level 4+*	*Total eligible pupils*
School Action Plus						
Hearing impairment	63	550	61	550	75	550
Visual impairment	67	290	63	290	81	290
Statement						
Hearing impairment	30	495	36	500	48	500
Visual impairment	48	300	49	300	66	300

Note:
Figures relate to 11-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in maintained schools.

Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above at key stage 3 tests

	English		Maths		Science	
	Percentage achieving Level 5+	Total eligible pupils	Percentage achieving Level 5+	Total eligible pupils	Percentage achieving Level 5+	Total eligible pupils
School Action Plus						
Hearing impairment	59	655	63	655	57	655
Visual impairment	59	285	68	285	65	285
Statement						
Hearing impairment	29	565	39	580	31	585
Visual impairment	47	395	53	390	49	390

Note:
Figures relate to 13-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in maintained schools.

Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE A-C grades (or equivalent)*

	5 or more GCSE A*-C grades (or equivalent)	5 or more GCSE A*-C grades including English and Mathematics (or equivalent)
School Action Plus		
Hearing impairment	46	33
Visual impairment	46	32
Statement		
Hearing impairment	31	18
Visual impairment	44	30

Note:
Figures relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools.

Number of pupils with a hearing impairment at School Action Plus = 595

Number of pupils with a visual impairment at School Action Plus = 240

Number of pupils with a hearing impairment with statements = 505

Number of pupils with a visual impairment with statements = 370

Faith Schools: Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which faith-based schools were included in the national mapping of on-site sexual health services in education settings produced by the Sex Education Forum; and if he will make a statement. [222357]

Beverley Hughes: A questionnaire was issued to teenage pregnancy co-ordinators in each top-tier local authority in England, asking them to identify which secondary schools in their area provided on-site health services, which included advice on contraception and sexual health. Responses were received from 70 per cent. of local authorities. Within the local authorities that responded, 627 schools (29 per cent. of the sample) had on-site services. In addition, on-site services were being provided in 84 pupil referral units. Of the 627 schools providing on-site services, 17 were faith-based schools.

The Government support the provision of on-site services where schools have identified a need and where the scope of the service has been agreed by the school's Governing Body, following consultation with parents. On-site services provide young people with swift and easy access to health advice that survey evidence suggests they are reluctant to access through GPs or clinics.

GCE A-level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils sat A levels in *(a)* media studies, *(b)* psychology, *(c)* law, *(d)* mathematics, *(e)* physics and *(f)* history in each year since 1997, broken down by type of school or college. [221759]

Jim Knight: The information required for the last three years has been placed in the House of Commons Library. Figures for earlier years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

GCE A level entries by subject and school type in 2004/05

	Comprehensive	Selective	Modern	Other maintained	Independent	Sixth form colleges	Other FE sector colleges	Total
Biological Sciences	20,078	5,463	298	47	8,540	7,613	3,623	45,662
Chemistry	13,031	4,532	145	33	7,980	5,094	2,349	33,164
Physics	10,313	3,339	123	21	5,469	3,086	1,743	24,094
Other Science	910	223	32	0	292	1,672	650	3,779
Mathematics	18,435	5,646	210	33	10,476	7,604	3,630	46,034
Further Mathematics	1,406	750	[1]—	[1]—	1,979	779	274	5,192
Design and Technology	10,281	1,575	271	0	1,966	1,742	242	16,077
Computer Studies	1,871	641	23	6	374	1,985	910	5,810
ICT	5,936	853	161	15	1,009	3,024	1,855	12,853
Home Economics	183	71	[1]—	0	158	55	[1]—	475
Accounting and Finance	396	10	5	3	243	1,232	933	2,822
Business Studies	12,753	2,827	176	33	4,574	5,876	3,709	29,948
Economics	4,228	1,713	23	25	4,683	1,999	748	13,419
Geography	14,045	3,201	349	22	5,421	3,583	1,762	28,383
Government and Politics	3,156	1,506	61	3	2,138	1,832	749	9,445
History	18,532	4,237	419	27	7,084	5,979	2,920	39,198
Law	3,172	259	128	9	201	5,222	3,660	12,651
Psychology	21,696	3,585	444	63	2,507	10,987	6,741	46,023
Sociology	11,888	1,212	288	37	439	5,300	4,330	23,494
Other social studies	498	164	12	0	306	1,167	587	2,734
Art and Design	15,027	2,066	636	29	5,597	7,313	4,926	35,594
Drama	7,496	1,072	247	18	2,376	2,169	1,090	14,468
English	36,785	6,592	1,052	61	9,253	14,367	8,887	76,997

GCE A level entries by subject and school type in 2004/05

	Comprehensive	Selective	Modern	Other maintained	Independent	Sixth form colleges	Other FE sector colleges	Total
Media/Film/Television Studies	10,516	936	505	56	525	5,592	3,337	21,467
Other Communication Studies	2,790	284	179	0	180	3,122	2,176	8,731
French	4,220	1,584	46	8	3,781	1,624	700	11,963
German	2,023	772	24	0	1,400	712	307	5,238
Spanish	1,408	505	21	9	1,904	775	308	4,930
Other modern languages	1,246	200	28	25	2,140	417	478	4,534
Classical Studies	793	826	10	0	2,686	933	213	5,461
Religious Studies	7,385	1,632	154	[1]—	2,841	1,482	[1]—	13,856
Music	3,816	727	82	0	1,504	1,627	686	8,442
Physical Education	10,285	1,268	321	10	2,093	4,196	1,586	19,759
General Studies	26,343	10,037	326	4	4,072	15,955	1,937	58,674
All subjects	302,941	70,308	6,808	600	106,191	136,115	68,408	691,371

[1] Suppressed due to small numbers.
Note:
Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August).

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils took GCSEs in *(a)* media studies, *(b)* psychology and *(c)* law in each year since 1997, broken down by type of school. [221760]

Jim Knight: The information required for the last three years is given in the following table. Figures for earlier years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Comprehensive	Selective	Modern	Other maintained	Independent	Total
Media Studies						
2004-05	38,432	450	1,699	16	430	41,027
2005-06	48,753	491	2,563	44	515	52,366
2006-07	55,060	490	3,008	34	479	59,071
Law						
2004-05	763	37	[1]—	[1]—	45	848
2005-06	1,015	43	26	0	48	1,132
2006-07	1,073	37	117	0	50	1,277
Psychology						
2004-05	1,668	107	74	[1]—	[1]—	1,865
2005-06	2,520	73	116	[1]—	[1]—	2,755
2006-07	3,335	79	122	7	88	3,631

[1] Figures suppressed due to small numbers.
Note:
Figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 929W, on children: disadvantaged, how many and what proportion of *(a)* all pupils and *(b)* pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in each year since 1997-98. [223713]

Jim Knight: Information on free school meals was first collected in 2002. Figures are provided as follows for 2002 and for the latest year 2007. Information for the intermediate years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Updated figures have been provided for 2007. So, the 2007 figure differs from that previously given in the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 929W.

The figures cover maintained schools only.

The 2007 figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4, the 2002 figures are for 15-year-olds.

138,340 pupils did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in 2006/07. This was 23.1 per cent. of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools.

34,176 pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in 2006/07. This was 44.6 per cent. of eligible pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools.

132,061 pupils did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in 2001/02. This was 24.2 per cent. of 15-year-olds in maintained schools.

34,128 pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in 2001/02. This was 45.9 per cent. of eligible 15-year-olds in maintained schools.

Headteachers: Early Retirement

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* headteachers and *(b)* deputy headteachers took early retirement in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [223719]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table provides the number and percentage of leadership group teachers, head, deputy and assistant head teachers, employed in local authority maintained schools in England who took early retirement in each of the last three years.

Leadership group teachers[1] early retirements[2] from local authority maintained schools—coverage: England

	Number	*Percentage[3]*
2005-06[4]	1,650	2.9
2006-07[4]	1,780	3.0
2007-08[4]	1,720	2.9

[1] Includes head teachers, deputy head teachers and assistant head teachers.
[2] Includes teachers retiring under the premature and actuarially reduced pension arrangements.
[3] The percentage rate is calculated from the number of early retirements divided by the headcount number of leadership group teachers, of all ages, recorded in service in January of the year in question.
[4] All years are provisional and subject to slight revision due to the addition of retrospective awards and suspension of pension benefits where teachers return to service.
Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records (retirement numbers) and Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g, (teacher numbers)

Languages: Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of primary school children are being taught a foreign language; and if he will make a statement. [223718]

Jim Knight: Ongoing research commissioned by the Department shows that in 2007, 84 per cent. of primary schools in England taught languages to pupils in Key Stage 2 (ages 7-11). This represented an increase of 14 percentage points since the same survey was carried out in 2006. We do not know how many pupils this represents as not all primary schools teach languages to all year groups in Key Stage 2.

Similar research carried out in 2002 showed that 44 percentage of primary schools were then teaching languages.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many primary school language teachers were recruited in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement; [223720]

(2) how many *(a)* primary teachers and *(b)* primary teaching assistants have been given training to teach foreign languages to their pupils since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [223721]

Jim Knight: The information given in the table shows recruitment to initial teacher training courses in primary modern languages. In total nearly 4,000 trainees have gone through these courses, with more to be trained over the next few years. The Training and Development Agency is also working with teacher training institutions to provide additional routes to boost the primary work force teaching languages. They are also developing a pilot programme of retraining modules for secondary language teachers to support language development in primary schools.

The Government fund the British Council to run the Primary Teacher Project, through which primary teachers undertake a two-week programme of language tuition through a partner institution in Europe, to develop their confidence and linguistic competence. Some 300 teachers went on this programme in 2007-08 and it is planned that around 400 will do so in 2008-09.

Teachers can also be supported through the increased funding we have given through local authorities to support the delivery of primary languages—£32.5 million in 2008-09, up from £27.5 million in 2007-08. Schools can use this for a variety of purposes, including to pay for in-service training for teachers and teaching assistants, or for upskilling primary teachers. CILT, the National Centre for Languages, also runs training courses for local authority staff and schools.

Number of new entrants on primary modern foreign language ITT courses between 2005/06 and 2007/08

	Total number of new entrants		
ITT subject	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08[1]*
Primary—French	370	390	420
Primary—German	80	100	90
Primary—Italian	30	40	40
Primary—Spanish	160	180	170
Primary—Portuguese	10	10	0
Primary—total modern foreign languages	650	710	720

[1] Provisional.
Notes:
1. Figures for mainstream trainees include Universities and other HE institutions, SCITT and OU, but exclude employment based routes.
2. Figures for 2007/08 are provisional and are subject to change.
3. Figures include trainees who are re-sitting all or part of their ITT programme.
4. Figures trainees on courses of one to five year durations.
5. Figures are individually rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum.
Source:
TDA ITT Trainee Number Census

Information on Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) specialisms has recently started to be collected by the Training and Development Agency. The available data indicate that in 2007/08 there were some 40 HLTAs in primary schools specialising in modern foreign languages.

No other information is centrally collected on the training provided to teachers and teaching assistants to teach foreign languages to pupils.

Languages: Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools have set a benchmark to increase the number of key stage 4 pupils taking a modern language; and if he will make a statement. [223722]

Jim Knight: Since my reply of 12 November 2007 to the hon. Member no further research has been carried out concerning this benchmark. However at the end of

September we will start a three-year evaluation, reporting in July 2011, looking at what impact the measures recommended in the Languages Review have had on take up at key stage 4, including looking at how many secondary schools have set the 50-90 percentage benchmark.

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which organisations submitted a bid for the current contract to mark key stage two and three standard assessment tests; [221903]

(2) how much each organisation that submitted a bid for the current contract to mark key stage 2 and 3 standard assessment tests proposed to charge to deliver the contract. [221904]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) which is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for the marking process. I have therefore asked David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 18 September 2008:

The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, has asked me to write to you concerning two recent parliamentary questions pertaining to the organisations that submitted bids for the contract to provide external marking and data collection services for key stage 2 & 3 national curriculum tests.

The organisations who submitted bids for the National Curriculum Tests contract were Capita, Edexcel, ETS, Logica CMG, Research Machines (RM), and Harcourt. These were shortlisted to Edexcel, ETS and LogicaCMG. Bids were received from Edexcel and ETS. LogicaCMG declined to submit a final bid.

The amount each bidder proposed to charge is commercial in confidence and the NAA is therefore not in a position to provide the information you seek. If this situation changes, or if the organisations concerned publicly state their involvement in the procurement process and the nature of their bid, I will write to you again.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the oral statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 680, on SATS, what factors Ofqual took into account in determining that the quality of marking of this year's key stage 2 and key stage 3 national curriculum tests was at least as good as in previous years. [223073]

Jim Knight: The remit of Ofqual is to regulate the national curriculum assessments to ensure that standards are maintained and assessments are fair and effective. Ofqual operates independently from Government, and I have asked Kathleen Tattersall, chair of Ofqual, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Isabel Nisbet, dated 15 September 2008:

DCSF have forwarded the following Parliamentary Question of Ofqual as it falls within Ofqual's remit.

"To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, pursuant to the Oral Statement of 22nd July 2008, what factors Ofqual took into account in determining that the quality of marking of this year's key stage 2 and key stage 3 national curriculum tests was at least as good as in previous years."

In response to this question Ofqual has rigorously monitored this year's national curriculum tests. It was assured by the National Assessment Agency that the criteria for marker appointments were in line with previous years. Ofqual attended marker training events, level setting meetings and script scrutiny meetings as well as checking that all procedures in place for the marking of the scripts were in line with our code of practice. The marking quality assurance measures in place for this year's tests have been good practice and included more systematic and frequent comparison with a benchmark against a national standard rather than a check by a team leader. From the monitoring of quality assurance processes Ofqual carried out it concluded that while it was not possible to predict the volume of reviews schools will request this year, the quality of the marking is at least as good as previous years.

I am copying this letter to Sue White at DCSF to ensure that the copy of this letter is kept at the House Library.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the oral statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 680, on SATS, if he will place in the Library the advice to him which stated that ministerial statements intended to influence the outcome of contractual discussions between the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and ETS Europe would jeopardise the public interest; [223074]

(2) what the evidential basis is for his assertion that a Minister can move the responsibility for redress from where it presently falls under the contract between the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and ETS Europe. [223075]

Jim Knight: The Department does not routinely publish advice to Ministers. It would only be in rare circumstances that such publication would be in the public interest. Publication would adversely affect the candour of officials' advice to Ministers and discourage the exploration of radical options. It would undermine the confidential relationship between officials and Ministers and compromise ministerial thinking space. There is also a public interest in protecting the principle of legal professional privilege.

In his oral statement to the House on 22 July 2008 the Secretary of State made clear that the contractual discussions between the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and ETS Europe were commercially, legally and financially highly sensitive. It was in the public interest that the QCA should be allowed to conclude those discussions in a timely, orderly and rigorous fashion.

They were concluded on 15 August when the QCA announced that it had agreed with ETS to dissolve its five-year contract for national curriculum tests operations with immediate effect.

National Curriculum Tests: Statistics

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the (Provisional) SFR National Curriculum Assessments at key stage 3 in England 2008 will be published on the second Tuesday in August as was originally scheduled. [221901]

Jim Knight: The Statistical First Release (SFR) National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 3 in England, 2008 (Provisional) was published on 12 August 2008, the second Tuesday in August as scheduled. This SFR can be found at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000805/index.shtml.

The SFR published on 12 August did not contain local authority data. A statement about the publication of Local Authority data can be found at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the (Provisional) SFR National Curriculum Assessments at key stage two in England 2008 will be published on the first Tuesday in August as was originally scheduled. [221902]

Jim Knight: The Statistical First Release (SFR) National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2008 (Provisional) was published on 5 August 2008, the first Tuesday in August as scheduled. This SFR can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000804/index.shtml.

Office of the Schools Commissioner

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of the Office of the Schools Commissioner for each year from 2006-07 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [224280]

Jim Knight: From September 2006, when the Office of the Schools Commissioner was first established, to March 2007 the cost was £970,000. For 2007-08 the cost was £3.1 million, and for 2008-09 the Office of the Schools Commissioner has a total budget of £4.3 million. Budgets for future years have not yet been finalised.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent members of staff in his Department are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games; how many of those are working on *(a)* project management, *(b)* legacy planning, *(c)* project oversight and *(d)* financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [221870]

Jim Knight: The education opportunities presented by the 2012 Games are being used to build on and add value to existing activity being undertaken by the DCSF. There are 1.8 full-time equivalent members of staff allocated to co-ordinating this work. They deal with all aspects of project management, legacy planning and project oversight. Future staffing levels for this work are expected to remain at this level.

Pre-School Education: Admissions

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in England took up free nursery places in each quarter in each year since the scheme was introduced. [223760]

Beverley Hughes: Since April 2004 all three and four-year-olds have been entitled to a free part-time early education place for 12.5 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. From 2010, this offer will be extended from 12.5 to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

Information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds is shown in the table.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds—England—position in January each year

	3 year olds			4 year olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 3 year olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools*[4]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 4 year olds*
1997	214,200	n/a	214,200	n/a	n/a	[5,6]576,200
1998	222,000	n/a	222,000	n/a	n/a	[5,6]591,500
1999	225,700	n/a	225,700	n/a	n/a	[5,6]593,800
2000	229,900	[7]40,300	270,200	483,700	114,800	[5,6]598,500
2001	226,600	[7]108,800	335,400	482,800	106,500	[5,6]589,300
2002	223,500	[7]184,700	408,300	477,700	[5]106,800	584,500
2003	218,700	[7]226,100	444,800	472,200	[8]109,600	581,800
2004	215,300	[9]246,200	461,600	461,100	[10]110,000	571,200
2005	214,300	[9]259,800	474,100	449,500	[10]104,400	553,900
2006	215,500	[9]268,000	483,300	442,200	[10]104,000	546,200
2007	221,000	[9]284,700	505,700	442,400	[10]106,300	548,700
2008	223,400	[9]303,200	526,600	459,600	[10]112,000	571,500

n/a = Not available.

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[6] For the years 1997-99, four year old figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.

[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.

[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2008", available on my Department's website

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Primary Education: Reading

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to promote reading in primary education. [222702]

Jim Knight: Encouraging children to read more is essential to increasing their chances of success, both at school and beyond.

The national strategies continue to provide a wide range of materials to support teachers, school librarians and others to ensure schools provide both high quality teaching and learning in reading, and promote an environment which encourages children's enthusiasm for reading and helps them achieve their potential. In primary schools and in response to the publication of the Rose Review we have ensured that all children learn to read through the use of systematic phonics. We are also now rolling out the Every Child a Reader programme for five and six-year-old children struggling with their reading.

There are a range of other programmes to promote reading which are available to all schools. For instance, the Reading Connects initiative supports schools in developing a whole-school reading culture; the School Reading Champions initiative uses the motivational power of male role models to inspire boys to read more; and the Family Reading Campaign supports schools in reaching out to parents and the wider family and helping them to encourage children to enjoy reading. All initiatives provide schools with tried and tested practical ideas to promote reading and a wide range of free resources.

Most recently, in June this year, I announced the extension of the Boys into Books programme to the primary sector. This project is bringing over half a million new books into public libraries from September for use on long-term loan in every state primary school in England.

Beyond the classroom, the National Year of Reading is helping to increase awareness of the pleasures and benefits of reading in all its forms, for children and families alike.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils were permanently excluded more than *(a)* once and *(b)* twice in (i) England and (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [223807]

(2) how many pupils were suspended more than *(a)* once, *(b)* five times and *(c)* 10 times in (i) England and (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223806]

Beverley Hughes: The available information on the number of permanent exclusions is shown in the table. Information on pupils who have been permanently excluded more than once can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The number of pupils with more than *(a)* one, *(b)* five and *(c)* 10 fixed-period exclusions is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The available information showing the number of times pupils have been excluded for a fixed period is published annually by the Department. These figures can be found in the Statistical First Release "DCSF: Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England", the latest of which refer to the 2006/07 school year and can be accessed at: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml (table 14).

Primary, secondary and all special schools, number of permanent exclusions[1, 2, 3, 4], 2002/03 to 2006/07, Yorkshire and the Humber

	Number of permanent exclusions	*Percentage of the school population[5]*
2002/03		
Yorkshire and the Humber	880	0.11
England	9,340	0.12
2003/04		
Yorkshire and the Humber	910	0.11
England	9,990	0.13
2004/05		
Yorkshire and the Humber	840	0.10
England	9,570	0.13
2005/06		
Yorkshire and the Humber	770	0.10
England	9,330	0.12
2006/07		
Yorkshire and the Humber	670	0.09
England	8,680	0.12

[1] Figures for maintained primary, secondary and special schools are as confirmed by local authorities as part of the data checking exercise. Figures for CTCs, academies and non-maintained special schools are as reported by schools and are unconfirmed.
[2] National totals and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Includes middle schools as deemed, CTCS and academies.
[4] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[5] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) pupils in primary, secondary and special schools, excluding dually registered pupils in special schools in January each year.
Source:
School Census.

Pupil Exclusions: Offensive Weapons

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were suspended or excluded from school for possession of an offensive weapon on school grounds in each of the last five years. [222803]

Beverley Hughes: Data are not collected centrally on the number of pupils who have been suspended or excluded from school for possession of an offensive weapon.

The Department does collect information on the reasons why pupils have been excluded, either for a fixed period or permanently. However, this does not include a specific category relating to possession of a weapon. That information was collected for the first time for 2003-04. Information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions, by reason, broken down by local authority, and covering the academic years 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The latest information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason, broken down by local authority has been published at the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

Real Action Butterfly Children's Programme

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if his Department will allocate funding to the Real Action Butterfly Children's programme; [222807]

(2) if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the Real Action Butterfly Children's programme in *(a)* raising educational attainment and *(b)* diverting young people away from anti-social behaviour and crime; [222808]

(3) if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the Real Action Butterfly Children's programme on promoting integration and community cohesion; and if he will provide funding to the programme. [222827]

Beverley Hughes: Ensuring equal opportunities for all to succeed at the highest level possible and removing barriers to access and participation in learning is an important contribution to promoting community cohesion. Through the National Strategies we are providing a wide range of training and resources to support teachers in providing the high quality teaching and learning which is vital to improving standards of attainment in literacy for all children.

Stopping young people engaging in crime and antisocial behaviour also plays an important role in building strong and cohesive communities. Through the Youth Taskforce Action plan, and more recently through the Youth Crime Action plan we have set out a 'triple track' response to these problems. Where problems occur we must respond with strong enforcement. However, that alone is not enough and we must also offer support to address the causes of bad behaviour and intervene earlier to prevent problems occurring in the first place.

In addition to promoting academic and other achievement, engaging young people in positive activities offers them stimulating things to do and safe places to go, helping to build resilience to future negative outcomes such as crime or antisocial behaviour. Over the next three years, Government have pledged £840 million to enhance facilities and services for young people.

We acknowledge the work that charities such as Real Action Butterfly Children's programme do to promote reading for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, however, we are not familiar with this specific programme and therefore we cannot comment on its efficacy on promoting integration or community cohesion.

The Children, Young People and Families Grant is a national grant programme, managed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, which aims to fund work of national significance to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families. It is possible that the work of Real Action Butterfly Children's programme may meet the criteria for this grant and more information can be found at:

http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/voluntaryandcommunity/cypfgrant/

Religion: Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to raise awareness of all religions amongst school children. [222704]

Jim Knight: Religious education syllabuses, other than for voluntary aided schools with a religious designation, are drawn up by an agreed syllabus conference which advises each separate local authority. To assist in drawing up these syllabuses the Department, with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), has published a non-statutory framework for religious education which has been supported by all the main faith groups and the British Humanist Association. It says that pupils should learn about Christianity throughout each key stage though, by the end of key stage 3, pupils should have encountered all five principal religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism) in sufficient depth. It also recommends that all pupils have opportunities to study other religious traditions such as the Baha'i faith, Jainism, Zoroastrianism and secular philosophies such as humanism. It can be obtained from the QCA website at

www.qca.org.uk.

In addition, the Government is investing £1 million in an RE action plan to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the subject. Key areas for the action plan include updating existing guidance on RE, reviewing materials used in schools to teach world religions and their contribution to promoting community cohesion, supporting the work of the RE subject association (the National Association of Teachers of RE), and increasing the involvement of minority faith groups in local Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education by rolling out a national programme of recruitment and training.

The plan is being implemented with full involvement and in full consultation with faith and belief communities and the RE professional community.

School Meals

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government plans to take to improve the nutritional content of school meals. [224286]

Beverley Hughes: The Department is taking a number of steps to improve the nutritional content of school meals.

New food-based standards were introduced in September 2006 for school lunches and from September 2007 for other school food. Nutrient-based standards were introduced for primary school lunches in September 2008 and will be introduced in secondary and special schools in September 2009.

We are investing over £650 million between 2005 and 2011 to help improve school food and keep school lunch prices down. This includes £220 million over the three years 2005-06 to 2007-08 to assist authorities and schools in improving school lunches and other school food; £240 million between 2008 and 2011 to support the costs of school lunches; £150 million capital funding to build and refurbish kitchen and dining facilities; and funding to establish FEAST centres to train catering

staff. We are also providing an extra £6 million over the next three years for the School Food Trust to promote healthy food to young people and raise take-up.

School Meals: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary school children at schools in West Lancashire constituency have access to healthy school meals. [221887]

Beverley Hughes: All schools have to meet the food-based nutritional standards introduced in September 2006 for school lunches and the standards for other school food introduced in September 2007. Nutrient-based standards were introduced for primary school lunches in September 2008 and will be introduced in secondary and special schools in September 2009.

I refer the hon. Member to the replies given previously for questions 196856 and 221728.

Schools: Athletics

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the provision of athletic equipment in schools. [222703]

Beverley Hughes: There is no departmental programme for this provision. A decision to purchase athletic equipment would be made locally by the school and based on its priorities.

Schools: Buildings

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools are using temporary mobile classroom accommodation in each region; and if he will make a statement. [223715]

Jim Knight: Data on school temporary buildings were supplied to my Department by local education authorities in 2001, 2003 and 2005. However, checks indicated that the completeness and quality of the data were not good enough to accurately assess the number of schools using temporary mobile classrooms.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.7 billion in 2008-09, and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year by year in improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including the replacement of poor-quality temporary accommodation. Given the high levels of funding, authorities have the opportunity to replace temporary buildings where they are considered to be unsuitable.

Modern, high-quality mobile or demountable buildings can provide a good environment for teaching and learning where there is a short-term need. They might be used, for instance, to cope with a temporary increase in pupil numbers at a school, or as an alternative to transporting children elsewhere when there is building work under way.

Schools: Closed Circuit Television

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in England have CCTV cameras in children's toilets. [221812]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information. Cameras can be installed in common areas in toilet or washroom facilities where misbehaviour may take place, so long as privacy is not infringed. The Information Commissioner's Office has produced a Code of Practice on the use of CCTV which schools can use.

Schools: Epilepsy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what specialist epilepsy schools there are in East Lancashire. [221899]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not hold information on schools that cater specifically for pupils with epilepsy, as it is a condition that falls within the broader descriptions of special educational needs used to categorise and classify special schools. Most pupils with epilepsy can be educated, mainstream schools but depending on the severity of the condition pupils may be educated in a variety of different types of special school. We are aware of one independent school in Lancashire, Oliver House School, which caters for children with epilepsy.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much money for schools from his Department was not devolved to local authorities or schools but allocated directly by his Department in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* purpose of the funding and *(b)* amount spent was. [223888]

Ed Balls: The following list provides a breakdown of the schools budget not devolved to schools or local authorities in the DCSF.

	£ million
Purpose	
School Performance and Reform	1
School Standards	459
School Resources	865
Schools Commissioner	1
Academies and Capital	66
Total	1,392

Schools: Recruitment

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of maintained schools' expenditure on advertising for recruitment in each of the last three years. [221756]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made any estimates on maintained schools' expenditure on advertising for recruitment. It is a matter for each local authority and its schools to determine locally.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching posts in maintained schools were advertised in each of the last three years, broken down by subject; and how many of those posts were filled as a result of the recruitment exercise of which the advertisement was part. [221757]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally.

Information for the number of teacher vacancies, that existed on the survey date in January under the Department's standard definition, have been published in table 6 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, January 2008 (Provisional) at the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000787/index.shtml

Schools: Restraint Techniques

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times restraint has been used in maintained primary and secondary schools in England for the purpose of preventing a child from *(a)* committing an offence, *(b)* causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, a person, including the child in question and *(c)* prejudicing the maintenance of good order and discipline at the school or among pupils receiving education at the school in the last 12 months. [222782]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally because that would be an unjustifiable bureaucratic burden for schools. The key issue is what happens at school level. The Department's guidance on use of force by school staff therefore advises schools that it is essential for them to record significant incidents and report them to parents.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of schools in Yorkshire and the Humber were judged by Ofsted to be *(a)* excellent, *(b)* good, *(c)* satisfactory and *(d)* inadequate at their most recent inspection; and if he will make a statement. [223808]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 15 September 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Inspectors have made a judgement about schools' overall effectiveness since January 2000. Under the previous school inspection framework (commonly known as Section 10), this judgment was made using a seven point scale: excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, poor and very poor. Since September 2005, the judgment has been made under the current school inspection framework (commonly known as Section 5) using a four point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate. This response relates to each school's most recent inspection.

It is not possible to operate a simple read-across approach from a seven- to a four-point scale and so simple comparisons are not possible. Ofsted's criteria for making inspection judgements about schools are clearly set out in our inspection guidance.

As of 11 September 2008, there were 2,305 maintained schools in Yorkshire and the Humber. Of these, 2,275 schools have been inspected under the current or previous inspection frameworks. The remaining 30 schools have recently opened and are yet to have an inspection. Schools that have closed since their last inspection have been excluded from the analysis.

Table 1 shows the latest overall effectiveness grade of those maintained schools in Yorkshire and the Humber that have had an inspection under the current inspection framework, introduced in September 2005.

Table 2 shows the latest overall effectiveness grade of those maintained schools in Yorkshire and the Humber where their most recent inspection was under the previous inspection framework.

Table 1: Overall effectiveness grade for maintained schools in Yorkshire and the Humber at their most recent inspection—Schools last inspected under the current inspection framework (Section 5) introduced in September 2005

	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate	Total
Number of inspections	295	1,085	776	54	2,210
Percentage of inspections	13	49	35	2	100

Note:
Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

Table 2: Overall effectiveness grade for maintained schools in Yorkshire and the Humber at their most recent inspection—Schools last inspected under the previous inspection framework (Section 10)

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very Poor	Total
Number of inspections	2	9	33	21	0	0	0	65
Percentage of inspections	3	14	51	32	0	0	0	100

Note:
Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent list of national challenge schools; and if he will make a statement. [224296]

Jim Knight: A list of schools where, according to 2007 results, fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieve five GCSEs or equivalent at grade A* to C including English and Maths has already been placed in the Library. Validated 2008 GCSE results will be available in January 2009. Officials from my Department are working with local authorities to identify what action is needed to ensure all schools rise above the threshold by 2011.

Sex Education Forum: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments his Department has made to the Sex Education Forum in 2007-08; how much is planned for 2008-09; what restrictions his Department places on the use of such funds; and if he will make a statement. [222356]

Beverley Hughes: In 2007-08 the Department made payments of £115,000 to the Sex Education Forum. Funds of £156,000 have been allocated to the forum for 2008-09. The Sex Education Forum provides support to practitioners involved in delivering sex and relationships education (SRE) or delivering on-site sexual health services in education settings, such as schools and FE colleges. All payments made to the Sex Education Forum are to deliver services or projects that are determined and monitored by the Department in accordance with an agreed work plan.

Social Services: Complaints

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in each local authority in England made a complaint about social services provision in each of the last two years; and how many such complaints were rejected because they were *(a)* not made within a year, *(b)* deemed unclear, *(c)* deemed frivolous and *(d)* deemed vexatious. [221780]

Ed Balls: This information is not collected centrally. However, local authorities are required to keep a record of:

each representation/complaint received

the outcome of each, that is, the decisions made in response to the representation/complaint and any action to be taken; and

whether there was compliance with the time limits

Each local authority must produce and have available to the public an annual report drawing on this information.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools are offering a diploma course in the 2008-09 academic year; and how many pupils are taking each diploma course in each such school. [223836]

Jim Knight: 145 consortia of schools, colleges and training providers are delivering Diploma courses from September 2008. Learner numbers for all qualifications are still subject to change during the first weeks of the autumn term, as young people make their final decisions about the courses they want to pursue. We are gathering data from local authorities on Diploma learner numbers during this term, in order to make adjustments to the funding areas receive for Diplomas. We will publish this information before the end of the year.

Specialised Diplomas: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's guidance relating to the *(a)* structure of and *(b)* methodology of compiling performance league tables for schools which are offering diploma courses. [223733]

Jim Knight: Up to 1 April 2008, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) was responsible for the methodology for establishing the relative value of qualifications reported in the Achievement and Attainment Tables and the points awarded to those qualifications. In December 2007, the QCA published the information relating to the Diploma, and the DCSF put this guidance on its website. This guidance—Performance Points for the Foundation, Higher and Advanced Diplomas—is as follows:

After 1 April 2008, Ofqual, the qualifications and examinations regulator, has taken over the responsibility for this and other issues of regulation.

Performance Points for the Foundation, Higher and Advanced Diplomas. Diplomas at levels 1 and 2 (Foundation and Higher Diploma)

Foundation and Higher Diploma achievement and attainment table (AAT) points exclude functional skills and personal, learning and thinking skills (PLTS) because these are delivered and recognised in AAT points through the KS4 curriculum.

This means that for the Foundation Diploma, the formula for AAT points is derived from 420 of the total 600 guided learning hours published in the Diploma structures and standards document (available on the QCA website), since the functional skills and PLTS comprise 180 guided learning hours at this level.

AAT points for the Higher Diploma are based on 660 of the total 800 guided learning hours for the course, since the functional skills and PLTS comprise 140 guided learning hours at this level.

Foundation Diploma:

	g/b	*B*	*A*	*A**
Principal Learning	240	57	84	102
Extended Project	60	9.5	14	17
ASL	120	19	28	34
Total (5 GCSE size equivalence)	420	85.5	126	153
Comparison with AAT points at GCSE:				
5 GCSEs D-G	415 to 504	80 to 110	140	170

Higher Diploma:

	g/b	*C*	*B*	*A*	*A**
Principal Learning	420	200	230	260	290
Extended Project	60	20	23	26	29
ASL	180	80	92	104	116
Total (7 GCSE size equivalence)	660	300	345	390	435
Comparison with AAT points at GCSE:					
7 GCSEs A* - C	595-684	280	322	364	406

Diplomas at level 3 (Advanced Diploma)

At Level 3, the curriculum context does not already include provision for the delivery of personal, learning and thinking skills (PLTS), functional skills or work experience. These are all hurdles for the achievement of the Advanced Diploma.

Functional Skills will need to be "taught" in the early years of the Diploma, and work experience will require a significant amount of directed time. Therefore the functional skills, work experience and PLTS hurdles are included within the AAT points calculations.

This means that although the published 1,080 guided learning hours for the Advanced Diploma is still valid, the AAT points for the qualification are based on 1305 guided learning hours, taking into account functional skills and work experience, which together comprise 225 guided learning hours.

Advanced Diploma:

	glh	*E*	*D*	*C*	*B*	*A*	*A**
Principal Learning	540	225	270	315	360	405	450
Extended Project	120	45	54	63	72	81	90
ASL	360	150	180	210	240	270	300
English FS	45	23	23	23	23	23	23
Maths FS	45	23	23	23	23	23	23
ICTFS	45	23	23	23	23	23	23
PLTS	60	30	36	42	48	54	60
Work Experience	90[1]	63	63	63	63	63	63
Total (3.5 GCE size equivalence)	1305	582	672	762	852	903	1032
Comparison with AAT points at GCE A level							
35 GCE A levels A*- E	1,200	525	630	735	840	945	1,050

[1] GLH for work experience has been calculated on the basis of 10 eight-hour working days and 10 hours for preparation, reporting and evaluation.

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust: Income

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the income of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust *(a)* was in each year from 1999 to 2000 to 2007-08 and *(b)* is planned to be for each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11, broken down by (i) central Government grants, (ii) subscriptions from schools, (iii) private sector donations and (iv) other income; and if he will make a statement. [223887]

Jim Knight: The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) is an independent registered charity which receives income from a range of sources. As such, DCSF does not have responsibility for monitoring its income. Audited accounts are published and available from the Charity Commission.

The DCSF funds SSAT through a range of grants and contracts to support the Specialist Schools and Academies Programmes and a range of other activities designed to raise pupil achievement. The total financial contribution made by DCSF to SSAT over the last seven years for which we have final information is: £2.395 million in 2001-02; £4.371 million in 2002-03; £11.326 million in 2003-04; £17.796 million in 2004-05; £24.350 million in 2005-06; £35.152 million in 2006-07 and £43.578 million in 2007-08. This includes both grants and contracts. DCSF negotiates funding levels each year for individual grants and contracts. We are not in a position to estimate what the level of funding will be in future years—this will depend on our priorities at the time.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222179]

Beverley Hughes: The Department is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work, and recently updated its Workforce Well-Being policies and practices for tackling sickness absence, including stress experienced in the workplace. In addition, we will be publishing a new stress prevention and management policy in the autumn. This will be based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards and will advise staff on best practice to further improve their capacity to manage stress.

Supply Teachers: Training

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what financial assistance is available for supply teachers without qualified teacher status (QTS) earning the equivalent of a classroom teacher on the M6 pay scale who wish to obtain QTS; and if he will make a statement; [223779]

(2) what programmes there are to encourage current non-qualified teachers who are acting as supply teachers to seek careers as full-time qualified teachers; and if he will make a statement. [223783]

Jim Knight: Unqualified teachers, including those acting as supply teachers, can gain QTS by completing one of the employment-based programmes. These include the Graduate Teacher Programme, the Registered Teacher Programme (for those without a degree or equivalent qualification) or, for overseas trained teachers, the Overseas Trained Teacher Programme all of which can be tailored to take account of prior experience. Alternatively they could complete an undergraduate teacher training course or postgraduate certificate in education. There are different financial support arrangements for each programme. Further information on the training options and financial assistance available can be obtained from the Teaching Information Line on 0845 6000 991 or by reference to the Training and Development Agency for Schools teacher recruitment website at:

www.tda.gov.uk.

Sure Start Programme

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department plans to produce regular reports on the outcomes and effectiveness of early years intervention work following the establishment of Sure Start Children's centres in every community beyond 2010. [222635]

Beverley Hughes: The National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS), undertaken by the University of Birkbeck, began in 2001 and focuses on the impact made by Sure Start Local Programmes, the precursor to Sure Start Children's Centres. Reports evaluating the impact of Sure Start on children and their families at nine months and three years of age are available at

www.ness.bbk.ac.uk.

The report from the current phase of the evaluation, assessing the impact when the children are five years old, is currently under way and we expect to publish the results in spring 2010. No decisions have been taken on whether this research should continue in the future.

The Department is considering arrangements for the evaluation of Sure Start Children's Centres currently.

Sure Start Programme: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the objectives are of the Sure Start sufficiency and access grant and the projects it has funded; and how much his Department has allocated to the grant in *(a)* each year since its introduction and *(b)* each of the next three years. [223749]

Beverley Hughes: The childcare sufficiency and access element of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant was introduced in financial year 2008-09 and so allocation figures are not available for earlier periods. Local authorities have discretion over the use to which they put this funding but the Memorandum of Grant assigns three principal objectives to it:

(a) to help local authorities maintain an accurate and up to date assessment of the provision of, and demand for, childcare in their respective areas;

(b) to help local authorities secure a sufficient supply of childcare across their area, through their management of the local childcare market; and

(c) to ensure that the needs of potentially excluded groups are met

The total funding across the country for sufficiency and access within the 2008-11 SSEYCG main revenue block is as follows:

	£
2008-09	122,133,095
2009-01	126,964,804
2010-11	129,122,702

Talent Taskforce

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the Talent Taskforce was established; what it has cost to date; and what the performance of the taskforce has been against its objectives. [223890]

Jim Knight: The Talent and Enterprise Taskforce was established in September 2007. To date, the Taskforce's running costs and programme expenditure come to £2,554,708. The objective is to promote the economic and social imperative of developing talent and skill in the UK through engaging influential networks, organisations and individuals across society to mobilise behind this theme. In working towards this objective the Taskforce has established:

an advisory group of 13 people representing organisations across educational, business and community sectors and who are engaging in the talent agenda;

SHINE, a national festival held in over 2,300 schools to celebrate the talent in every child that took place from 30June—4 July;

The Prime Minster's Global Fellowship. A scheme in which 100 school leavers visited China, India and Brazil to gain first-hand understanding of the global economy and how it will impact the lives of young people, returning to share what they have learnt with their peers;

regional debates on the 'Talent Challenge'. To be held in every Government region, these debates are bringing together leaders in the business, education and community sectors to consider their priorities on the talent agenda in their region; and,

a project underway in 20 local authorities to pilot online sign-posting to positive activities for young people.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223023]

Beverley Hughes: Details of expenditure on taxis incurred by the Department in the last financial year are set out as follows:

	£
2007-08	247,738

The expenditure is based on staff travel claims and approved invoices received from taxi companies paid via the Departments Integrated Financial Information System.

DCSF was established under Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. This response also covers those areas of responsibility held by its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

Teachers: Males

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of primary school teachers in *(a)* England and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber were men at the latest date for which figures are available. [223813]

Jim Knight: Provisional March 2006 figures show that 15.5 per cent. of full-time regular teachers employed in local authority maintained primary schools in England are male compared with 16.5 per cent. in Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region.

The source of this information is the Database of Teacher Records.

Teachers: Pay

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average annual earnings of a supply teacher in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* Wakefield District were in the latest period for which figures are available. [223780]

(2) what the average income of a first year teacher in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* Wakefield District was in the last year for which figures are available. [223781]

Jim Knight: Information on the average annual earnings of supply teachers is not collected centrally.

The available information on the average income of a first year teacher in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber is contained within Table B4:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/Addition_B_DOU.xls

of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (Revised)". Figures for Wakefield district are not available.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average income of a teacher on the M6 pay scale in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* Wakefield District was in the last year for which figures are available. [223782]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the average gross salary, including all additional allowances, of full-time regular qualified teachers on scale point six of the main classroom teachers pay scale (M6) in local authority maintained schools in England, Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region (GOR) and Wakefield local authority in March 2006, the latest information available.

Average salary of full-time regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained schools on scale point M6, March 2006[2]

	£
England[3]	28,920
Yorkshire and the Humber GOR	28,180
	28,380

[1] Included are teachers for whom there is sufficient information on the components of their salary to match exactly their basic salary with the scale point M6. For 17 per cent. of teachers we are unable to perform this matching.
[2] Provisional.
[3] Includes teachers on the London main classroom pay scales.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average number of times was an individual trainee on the initial teacher training course took the basic skills test in *(a)* literacy, *(b)* numeracy and *(c)* ICT in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [223714]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table.

ITT trainees—QTS skills test results

	Numeracy			Literacy			ICT		
	Number passed	*Approximate number of tests sat by those who passed*	*Mean number of attempts required to pass*	*Number passed*	*Approximate number of tests sat by those who passed*	*Mean number of attempts required to pass*	*Number passed*	*Approximate number of tests sat by those who passed*	*Mean number of attempts required to pass*
2000-01	22,950	29,380	1.28	23,230	26,480	1.14	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001-02	25,980	33,260	1.28	26,330	32,910	1.25	25,810	28,650	1.11
2002-03	29,090	38,110	1.31	29,620	36,720	1.24	29,170	38,220	1.31
2003-04	31,310	42,580	1.36	32,720	40,250	1.23	32,960	38,560	1.17
2004-05	33,250	49,540	1.49	33,900	47,120	1.39	33,330	45,990	1.38
2005-06	34,130	50,850	1.49	34,150	47,810	1.40	33,250	37,900	1.14
2006-07	34,360	53,600	1.56	35,150	46,460	1.32	35,140	39,310	1.12

n/a = Not applicable
Notes:
1. Includes mainstream (Universities, other higher education institutes, SCITT and Open University) as well as employment based routes.
Source:
TDA

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many graduates completed the Teach First programme in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement; [223793]

(2) how many graduates he expects to complete the Teach First programme in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement; [223794]

(3) what plans he has to increase the number of graduates completing the Teach First programme; and if he will make a statement; [223795]

(4) what plans he has to increase awareness of the Teach First programme among graduates; and if he will make a statement; [223798]

(5) how many and what percentage of Teach First leavers went on to work in *(a)* academies and *(b)* the independent sector in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [223805]

Jim Knight: The following number of graduates have completed the Teach First programme:

	Number
2004	164
2005	177
2006	158
2007	244
2008	253

The Prime Minister announced in June 2008 that the number of Teach First places would double over the next five years to the level where more than 800 top class graduates would be recruited into teaching each year. Accordingly, Teach First is projecting the following number of graduates will begin the programme in each year:

	Number
2009	370
2010	460
2011	560
2012	660
2013	760
2014	850

Teach First is already taking forward plans to drive the expansion by increasing the awareness of the programme among eligible graduates. It does not currently have detailed statistics on the destinations of completers who remain in education, but I already plan to require these to be available for the 2008/09 academic year onwards.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of secondary school teacher training applications for each subject were accepted in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223796]

Jim Knight: The only centrally available data on applications for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses is for mainstream postgraduate ITT courses. Data on total ITT, mainstream undergraduate ITT and Employment Based ITT are not available centrally.

The following tables show the number of applications and acceptances to mainstream postgraduate secondary ITT courses in England along with the proportion of those applications which were accepted for each subject since 2003-04. Figures for 2008-09 will be available around May 2009.

Post graduate applications and acceptances to secondary ITT courses[1,2,3], 2003-04 to 2007-08—England

	2003-04			2004-05		
	Number of applications	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*	*Number of applications*	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*
Mathematics	2,610	1,660	64	2,920	1,670	57
English (inc. Drama)	4,550	2,430	53	4,670	2,340	50
Science[4]	3,880	2,500	65	4,040	2,460	61
Modern foreign languages[5]	2,480	1,580	64	2,300	1,400	61
Technology[6]	3,790	2,100	55	3,800	2,180	58
History	1,920	1,120	58	1,910	1,010	53
Geography	1,250	980	79	1,310	940	72
Physical Education	2,020	950	47	2,200	1,020	46
Art	1,770	1,020	57	1,690	920	55
Music	610	510	84	640	460	73
Religious education	700	560	80	780	580	75
Other[7]	950	470	50	1,050	560	53
Total secondary[8]	26,520	15,880	60	27,300	15,550	57

	2005-06			2006-07		
	Number of applications	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*	*Number of applications*	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*
Mathematics	3,250	1,780	55	2,840	1,740	61
English (inc. Drama)	4,950	2,250	46	5,090	2,090	41
Science[4]	4,310	2,570	60	4,210	2,680	64
Modern foreign languages[5]	2,220	1,330	60	2,060	1,310	64
Technology[6]	3,800	2,200	58	3,530	2,160	61
History	1,960	910	46	1,780	740	42
Geography	1,220	860	70	1,120	770	69
Physical Education	2,300	970	42	2,340	870	37
Art	1,650	820	50	1,560	700	45
Music	700	510	73	780	540	69
Religious education	860	630	74	1,070	720	67
Other[7]	1,140	590	51	1,070	490	46
Total secondary[8]	28,360	15,410	54	27,450	14,810	54

	2007-08		
	Number of applications	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*
Mathematics	2,590	1,680	65
English (inc. Drama)	4,700	2,010	43
Science[4]	3,910	2,690	69
Modern foreign languages[5]	1,810	1,260	70
Technology[6]	2,980	2,080	70
History	1,710	690	41

	2007-08		
	Number of applications	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*
Geography	890	690	77
Physical Education	2,370	830	35
Art	1,390	600	43
Music	770	570	73
Religious education	1,110	760	68
Other[7]	950	420	45
Total secondary[8]	25,170	14,270	57

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
[2] Some applications to Postgraduate ITT courses are made independently of the Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR) and are not included in the figures.
[3] Membership to the GTTR changes between years, therefore the higher education institutions covered may vary.
[4] Includes Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, Combined/General Sciences and Env/Rural Sciences.
[5] Includes French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Celtic Languages and Other Modern Languages.
[6] Includes Design and Technology, Information Technology, Business Studies and Home Economics.
[7] Includes Economics, Social Studies, Classics, Citizenship and Unspecified.
[8] Excludes middle phase.
Source:
Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR)

The number of people accepting offers to ITT courses is a more important indicator of take up rate than applications. Year on year changes in the number of acceptances between 2003-04 and 2007-08 have broadly reflected changes in ITT recruitment targets. While acceptances for postgraduate courses for 2007-08 are a few percentage points down on last year, there are also fewer places on offer.

Figures presented in this response have been published on the GTTR website. Details of what GTTR information has been published is available at:

http://www.gttr.ac.uk/providers/statistics/annualstatisticalreport

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the progress of the National College of School Leadership in developing a replacement for the Fast Track scheme; and if he will make a statement. [223799]

Jim Knight: The National College for School Leadership submitted its preliminary advice for a new accelerated leadership programme to the Secretary of State in June 2008.

Departmental officials are working with the College to enable it to provide further advice and full proposals by early November 2008. The Secretary of State will then respond to these.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the performance of the future leaders programme; and if he will make a statement; [223800]

(2) how many people are expected to complete the future leaders programme in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement; [223801]

(3) what the budget for the future leaders programme is for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [223802]

(4) what plans he has to expand the future leaders programme across England; and if he will make a statement. [223803]

Ed Balls: Early, independent evaluation of the programme has been very favourable. The Future Leaders programme is already helping to address the imminent succession planning needs in London school leadership teams, with the majority of participants to date securing a senior leadership team post.

When we published the Children's Plan at the end of last year, we announced that we would expand the Future Leaders programme so that by September 2011 there will be over 500 Future Leaders in schools across the country's major city regions.

The programme is part-funded by the Government; for the current spending review period we have allowed £8 million, of which approximately £2 million will be spent in 2008-09.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the merits of establishing a national college of teachers; and if he will make a statement. [223804]

Jim Knight: No specific assessment has been made of the merits of establishing a national college of teachers. However, the DCSF works with the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) to support and promote effective recruitment and professional development arrangements, not only for teachers, but for the whole school work force.

We also continue to work with the National College for School Leadership (NCSL) supporting the development of leadership teams with broad skill sets, and with the independent General Teaching Council for England (GTCE), to improve standards of teaching and the quality of learning, and to maintain and improve standards of professional conduct among teachers.

The TDA, NCSL and GTCE work effectively together. For example, TDA and NCSL are leading jointly the project to support remodelling in extended schools while TDA and GTCE work closely on the continuing professional development of teachers.

Teaching Methods

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the direct instruction method of teaching in raising educational attainment. [222809]

Jim Knight: The Department has not funded any research specifically to investigate the direct instruction method of teaching. However, we regularly review research evidence on effective pedagogy to inform the guidance issued by the national strategies. Overall, evidence suggests that while elements of the direct instruction method may be suitable in certain subjects and in certain circumstances, a varied and responsive teaching repertoire is most likely to engage pupils in their learning and support their attainment. The primary and secondary national strategies promote the use of whole class, small group and one to one approaches to teaching, regardless of the areas of learning including, for example, when teaching early reading based on the Simple View of Reading.

We will continue to support teachers and schools to use their professional judgment to select the most appropriate approaches for their pupils, based on evidence of good practice.

Training and Development Agency for Schools: Location

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the cost of relocating the Training and Development Agency for Schools from London to Manchester. [223766]

Jim Knight: The relocation of the Training and Development Agency to Manchester is estimated to cost £16 million over the three-year period from 2008 to 2011.

This is consistent with the Government's commitment to continuous improvement in delivery of public services and to providing value for money to taxpayers. The initial costs are balanced by longer-term benefits for the Agency in the potential for cost savings, reductions in staff turnover, and improvements in the quality of service delivery; and the wider economic benefits for the Manchester region

Truancy

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* fathers and *(b)* mothers have been (i) fined and (ii) imprisoned for their children's non-attendance at school in each of the last five years. [221814]

Beverley Hughes: The Ministry of Justice collects data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) for failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school; and for prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly. It is possible, because of the way courts record data that some data are collected under the more general heading of various offences under the Education Act 1996.

The information on the number of people by gender sentenced and given fines or immediate custodial sentences is detailed in the following tables.

Number of persons sentenced[1] and given immediate custody for offences involving children's non-attendance at school, all courts, England and Wales 2002-06

			Number of persons	
	Sex	*Offence description*	*Sentenced*	*Immediate custody*
2002	Male	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	769	—
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	1	—
	Female	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	2,055	1
2003	Male	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	786	1
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	83	2
	Female	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	2,187	3
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	239	1
2004	Male	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	778	2
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	259	5
	Female	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	1,964	6
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	573	9
2005	Male	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	812	—
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	244	2
	Female	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	2,017	5
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	695	13
2006	Male	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	1,011	1

Number of persons sentenced[1] and given immediate custody for offences involving children's non-attendance at school, all courts, England and Wales 2002-06

	Sex	Offence description	Number of persons Sentenced	Immediate custody
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	292	3
	Female	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	2,524	1
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	944	17

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services Ref: AHA312-08

Number of persons sentenced and given fines for offences involving children's non-attendance at school, all courts, England and Wales, 2002-06

	Sex	Offence description	Number of persons Sentenced	Fine
2002	Male	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	769	511
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	1	1
	Female	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	2,055	1,260
2003	Male	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	786	524
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	83	45
	Female	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	2,187	1,337
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	239	105
2004	Male	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	778	498
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	259	174
	Female	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	1,964	1,166
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	573	301
2005	Male	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	812	524
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	244	125
	Female	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	2,017	1,219
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	695	341
2006	Male	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	1,011	699
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	292	158
	Female	Failure to secure regular attendance at school	2,524	1,625
		Parent knows that child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	944	470

Notes:
1. These data are on the principal offence basis.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
3. The Department for Children, Schools and Families also collects separate data for England on penalty notices, fines, issued to parents for failing to ensure that their compulsory school aged children attend school regularly. Penalty notices provide an alternative to prosecuting parents under s444 of the Education Act 1996 and have been available since February 2004. Data available covering the last three complete school academic years show that from 1 September 2004 to 31 July 2005, 3,483 penalty notices were issued to parents; from 1 August 2005 to 1 September 2006,12,150; and from 2 September 2006 to 31 August 2007,14,625. The Department does not collect data by gender type.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services 19 August 2008
Ref: AHA327-08

Truancy: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many secondary school pupils in Yorkshire and the Humber played truant in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [223816]

(2) how many persistent truants there were in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223817]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not maintain records of 'truancy'.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy. The available information showing the percentage of half days missed owing to unauthorised absence in secondary schools is given in

the table. Information which includes CTCs and academies can be provided only at disproportionate cost for the years prior to 2005/06.

Information on persistent absence relates to persistent absentees, these are pupils who are absent for more than 20 per cent. of possible sessions of attendance. This information is available for secondary schools from 2005/06 and for primary schools from 2006/07 and is given in the table.

Secondary schools[1, 2], percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence, Yorkshire and the Humber, 2002/03 to 2006/07[3]

	2002/03[3]	2003/04[3]	2004/05[3]	2005/06[3]	2006/07[3]
Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence:					
Yorkshire and the Humber					
LA maintained secondary schools[2]	1.47	1.49	1.58	1.74	1.82
State funded secondary schools[4]	—	—	—	1.75	1.88
England					
LA maintained secondary schools[2]	1.07	1.14	1.23	1.42	1.50
State funded secondary schools[4]	—	—	—	1.42	1.52

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes CTCs and academies.
[3] For years 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05 data was collected via the School Absence Survey, for 2005/06 and 2006/07 data was collected via the School Census.
[4] Includes CTCs and academies, two academies opened in Yorkshire and the Humber in 2005 (one had previously been a CTC) with a further four in 2006.
Source:
School Absence Survey and School Census.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1, 2], percentage of enrolments who are classed as persistent absentees[4], Yorkshire and the Humber, 2002/03 to 2006/07[3]

	Maintained primary schools[1]		State funded secondary schools[1, 2]	
	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07
Percentage of enrolments who are classed as persistent absentees[4]				
Yorkshire and the Humber	n/a	1.8	8.4	7.7
England	n/a	1.8	7.1	6.7

n/a = Not available.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies, two academies opened in Yorkshire and the Humber in 2005 (one had previously been a CTC) with a further four in 2006.
[3] Persistent absentees are defined as having more than 63 sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year.
Source:
School Census.

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Ministers from the devolved administrations have expressed an interest in attending the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's examination of the UK State Party report in September 2008. [221813]

Beverley Hughes: Jane Hutt, Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning and Skills in the Welsh Assembly Government wrote to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, in May 2008, expressing an interest in joining a ministerial delegation for the UK Government's oral hearing with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on 23/24 September 2008.

The Secretary of State gave careful consideration to the make up of the delegation and decided that it would be more appropriate for the delegation to be comprised of senior officials from across government and the Devolved Administrations.

The UK Government do not routinely send Ministers to treaty monitoring examinations and, like most other western countries, Ministers have not attended previous hearings with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. Junior Minister Gerry Kelly from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Northern Ireland also expressed an interest in attending.

Work Experience: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what level of assurance the Accounting Officer has been given by his Department's internal audit team regarding the health and safety of children undergoing vocational work experience. [221832]

Jim Knight: Work-related learning has been a statutory requirement at key stage 4 since 2004. Responsibility for meeting this requirement lies with schools or colleges, supported by a number of parties involved in the work experienced programme including, Education Business Partnership Organisations (EBPOs), parents and carers, employers and learners. The Department for Children, Schools and Families provides necessary supporting policy guidance to help achieve this requirement including the 'Quality Standard for Work Experience'. This guidance provides a framework of responsibilities for the different elements of work experience including the health and safety of learners. It is the responsibility of local authorities to apply their own audit and oversight of the extent to which work experience programmes in their own areas meet the standard. Ofsted take the standard into account during their inspections. The Department's internal audit unit does not provide any specific assurance to the Accounting Officer on these matters.

Young Offenders

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children under the age of 16 who were convicted of a criminal offence in each year since 1997 were from a single-parent household. [223750]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and Ministry of Justice, who share responsibility for Youth Justice issues do not collect this information centrally.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children under the age of 16 who were convicted of an offence of gun or knife crime in each year since 1997 were from a single-parent household. [223751]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice, which share responsibility for Youth Justice issues, do not collect this information centrally.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* 16 to 18, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18-year-olds are not in education, employment or training in each region. [223716]

Jim Knight: The Department's published estimate of the number and proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) cannot be disaggregated to regional level. However, we can estimate the number and proportion of young people NEET using figures drawn from the client management systems maintained by Connexions services. The following table shows the number and proportion of *(a)* 16 to 18, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training in each region at the end of 2007 based on Connexions data.

	Age 16 -18		*Age 17*		*Age 18*	
	Number	*Proportion (%)*	*Number*	*Proportion (%)*	*Number*	*Proportion (%)*
South East	13,220	5.3	5,140	5.4	5,190	5.6
London	13,430	6.4	5,110	6.5	5,670	7.1
East	10,470	5.8	4,000	5.8	4,300	6.4
South West	8,640	5.4	3,370	5.6	3,480	5.9
West Midlands	13,220	7.1	5,190	7.3	5,260	7.7
East Midlands	8,140	5.6	3,130	5.6	3,230	6.0
Yorkshire and Humber	14,440	8.2	5,760	8.5	5,570	8.7
North West	19,570	7.9	7,600	8.0	7,950	8.8
North East	9,120	10.0	3,390	9.8	4,090	12.2

Note:
1. The figures relate to young people known to Connexions and are not directly comparable with the statistics on 16 to 18-year-olds NEET published annually by the Department of Children, Schools and Families. This is because the Connexions NEET measure excludes those on gap years, or in custody. Young people who attended independent schools or were educated outside England may also be excluded. In addition, the Department's statistics relate to the young person's academic age, rather than calendar age.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many people aged 16 to 18 have completed an apprenticeship in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1997; [223830]

(2) how many people have completed an apprenticeship in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationally in each year since 1997. [223831]

Mr. Lammy: Table 1 shows the number of people aged 16 to 18 at the start of their apprenticeship who has completed a full Apprenticeship framework. Table 2 shows the total number of people who have completed a full Apprenticeship framework.

Framework completion data was not published in the pre-LSC era, so figures are not available for the period between 1997/98 to 2001/02.

Table 1: Full framework apprenticeship completions for learners aged 16 to 18[1] at the start of their apprenticeship

	Full framework apprenticeship completions for learners aged 16 to 18[1]				
	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Total Apprenticeship Completions	26,500	29,300	40,200	59,000	65,700

Table 1: Full framework apprenticeship completions for learners aged 16 to 18[1] at the start of their apprenticeship

	Full framework apprenticeship completions for learners aged 16 to 18[1]				
	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Apprenticeship Completions in the North East[2]	2,200	2,400	3,500	4,800	5,100
Apprenticeship Completions in South Tyneside[3]	140	150	230	320	380
Apprenticeship Completions in Jarrow[4]	80	70	160	180	210

[1] Age is based on learner age at the start of the course.
[2] North East Government Office Region, based on learner's home postcode.
[3] South Tyneside Local Authority, based on learner's home postcode.
[4] Jarrow constituency, based on learner's home postcode.
Notes:
1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. These figures represent learners starting an apprenticeship or an advanced apprenticeship. Additionally, there are a very small number of Higher Level Apprenticeships included in the 2006/07 total.
Source:
ILR Work-Based Learning data

Table 2: Full framework apprenticeship completions

	Full framework apprenticeship completions				
	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Total Apprenticeship Completions	42,700	49,300	67,200	98,700	111,800
Apprenticeship Completions in the North East[1]	3,200	3,700	5,200	7,200	8,000

Table 2: Full framework apprenticeship completions

	Full framework apprenticeship completions				
	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Apprenticeship Completions in South Tyneside[2]	170	220	330	450	580
Apprenticeship Completions in Jarrow[3]	90	100	210	250	300

[1] North East Government Office Region, based on learner's home postcode.
[2] South Tyneside Local Authority, based on learner's home postcode.
[3] Jarrow constituency, based on learner's home postcode.
Notes:
1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. These figures represent learners starting an apprenticeship or an advanced apprenticeship. Additionally, there are a very small number of Higher Level Apprenticeships included in the 2006/07 total.
Source:
ILR Work-Based Learning data

Apprentices: Bureaucracy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government has taken to reduce bureaucracy in the apprenticeships system. [224318]

Mr. Lammy: On 7 August this year Skills Secretary John Denham announced Government proposals to cut red tape around Apprenticeships in response to employers' concerns. We will remove unnecessary bureaucracy such as demands to store paperwork for up to six years; multiple inspection visits; and minimise reporting requirements at the earliest possible opportunity. In line with the successful actions of some of Britain's leading employers, we will introduce improvements including more efficient use of electronic audit and storage, simpler and faster registration and certification processes, and more streamlined payment and reporting systems. These practical measures will enable more employers to meet their present and future skills needs, unimpeded by time-consuming and costly administration.

Apprentices: Disabled

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what progress has been made in increasing the number of apprenticeship placements available to young disabled people wishing to acquire skills and employment; [221911]

(2) what steps he has taken to promote the representation of young disabled people in the London apprenticeship taskforce. [221912]

Mr. Lammy: The proportion of young people starting apprenticeships in England who have learning difficulties or disabilities has been around 11 per cent. for the last three years. However, we are seeing increases in the number of young people with learning difficulties or disabilities who complete apprenticeships as a proportion of all young people who complete Apprenticeships. The proportion rose from almost 8.5 per cent. in 2004/05 to 10.5 per cent. in 2006/07.

'World-class apprenticeships' plans to expand the number and range of apprenticeships in England include a number of proposals to increase the take-up and completion rates of apprenticeships by learners who are currently under-represented in the programme. We are developing pilots to begin later this year—including a campaign which is London-specific—to increase the 'critical mass' of learners in non-traditional occupations to encourage more such applications; and mentoring trials to support atypical apprentices through their experience. A national vacancy matching service, to be introduced from the end of this year, will, for the first time in England, provide data on who is applying for apprenticeships that we will use to focus activity supporting employers and potential apprentices where there is evidence that any particular groups of applicants are not being successful in their applications.

I chair a London Apprenticeship Task Force whose role includes tackling inequalities. I expect those employers, colleges and partners who are current members of the taskforce to represent the interests of young disabled people as they do for all apprentices and potential apprentices.

Apprentices: Small Businesses

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government has taken to encourage small businesses to provide apprentice positions. [224319]

Mr. Lammy: There are a number of proposals in 'World-class Apprenticeships' aimed at supporting and encouraging small business in taking on apprentices. These included the recently launched sector growth pilots. These pilots are designed to trial a range of support including wage and training subsidies and while this is not exclusively for small businesses, they will be encouraged to bid for this funding. We are also developing proposals set out in World Class Apprenticeships to support SMEs to form their own Group Training Associations to support the delivery of Apprenticeships.

We are developing the Apprenticeship Frameworks to be more flexible and responsive. This will involve relaxing the current arrangements to allow employers to submit their own frameworks for funding, by drawing from a Sector Skills Council 'bank' of qualifications.

We are also working with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, who recently surveyed SMEs to establish how the new National Apprenticeship Service can better meet the needs of employers. The survey focused on, although not limited to, reducing the administrative burden on them. Together we will consider how best to incorporate the recommendations coming out of the survey.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [222100]

Mr. Lammy: The class of air travel which staff may book depends upon grade, the length of time the journey will take, as well as airlines fare structures on various routes. Whether or not a member of staff is entitled to travel first class or business class, all members of DIUS have a responsibility to make appropriate decisions on how to travel and to secure value for money in the use of

travel budgets. DIUS members of staff are permitted to travel in a cheaper class to the destination although any saving would not generate a monetary or in kind benefit for the individual.

All travel undertaken by DIUS staff is undertaken in accordance with the staff handbook and the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code" and Treasury guidance set out in "Managing Public Money" on the avoidance of personal profit from public business.

DIUS has a travel service contract with a travel agent for all flight bookings, the costs being paid centrally. DIUS staff are expected to use the contract, whenever possible, when booking any travel tickets.

DIUS agency, NWML: Staff who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to travel in a cheaper class to the destination and do not benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. In fact they are 'expected' to travel in a cheaper class in all but very exceptional circumstances.

DIUS agency, UK-IPO: All official travel is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code" and staff handbook.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government Departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul flights. [222107]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. The Departments predecessors DfES (Department for Education and Skills, now DCSF) and DTI (Department for Trade and Industry, now BERR) have been participated in the Carbon Offsetting Fund since the 2006/07 financial year and continue to provide this for DIUS. The number of air miles used to calculate the departmental payment for the 2006/07 financial year is contained in their Departments response.

The figures provided to DIUS by DCSF for 2007/08 are currently being cleared for submission within the annual return on Sustainable Development in Government.

The number of air miles used to calculate the departmental payment for the 2007/08 financial year for DIUS provided by BERR was as follows:

	Miles
(a) Domestic	27,540
(b) Short haul	140,286
(c) Long haul	285,096

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [222096]

Mr. Lammy: The London base of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is at Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street. 5,671 sq m of office space (on a net internal basis) at these premises were refurbished in order to accommodate the Department after it was created in summer 2007. The space was previously occupied by the former Department of Trade and Industry.

No other buildings occupied by the Department or its agencies have been newly occupied or refurbished in the last 24 months.

Departmental Correspondence

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's target time period is for answering correspondence from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public; what proportion of responses met these targets in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average time taken was to respond to a piece of correspondence. [221798]

Mr. Lammy: Since the machinery of government changes, and the creation of the Department on 28 June 2007, correspondence has been handled by an interim arrangement which relied on our legacy Departments. The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) has assisted in the handling of correspondence relating to skills, further and higher education and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has dealt with correspondence about science and innovation.

The Department has a target to respond to correspondence from either hon. Members or members of the public within 15 days of receipt. From June 2008 all correspondence has been handled using DCFS' computerised handling system. During the period 1 January 2008 and 31 August 2008, 77 per cent. of correspondence from hon. Members was despatched within target and the average time taken to respond was 14 days. For correspondence from members of the public, 98 per cent. was despatched within target and the average time taken to respond was nine days.

This information has been extracted from the DCSF system and refers to the correspondence DCSF have responded to on DIUS' behalf. Statistics regarding the correspondence handled by BERR on behalf of DIUS are not available.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many pieces of correspondence his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Peers and *(c)* members of the public in the last 12 months; and what proportion of these received a response within (i) one week, (ii) two weeks, (iii) one month and (iv) a time period longer than one month. [221799]

Mr. Lammy: The information set out in the following table relates to correspondence about higher education, further education and skills issues, and since June 2008, science and innovation correspondence and covers the period 1 January 2008 to 31 August 2008.

	Members of the public	Hon. Members and peers
Received (number)	8,475	3,431
Percentage		
Completed within target	98	77
Completed within 1 week	35	6
Completed within 2 weeks	58	27
Completed within 4 weeks	98	86
Completed greater than 4 weeks	2	14

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent representations he has received on the performance of his Department in dealing with correspondence in a timely manner; and if he will make a statement. [221800]

Mr. Lammy: As I said in my earlier statement, the Department has a target to respond to correspondence from either hon. Members or members of the public within 15 days of receipt, something we take very seriously, and to date there have been no representations on the timeliness of response.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints his Department has received from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public relating to the timeliness or substance of his Department's responses to correspondence in the latest period for which figures are available. [221802]

Mr. Lammy: Let me repeat again, the Department has a target to respond to correspondence from either hon. Members or members of the public within 15 days of receipt, something we take very seriously, and to date there are no recorded complaints about either the substance or timeliness of responses to correspondence.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many notifications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies made to the Information Commissioner following the loss or mishandling of personal information or data since its creation; and what was notified in each case. [222899]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, did not report any personal data-related incidents for the period 2007/08 to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Before November 2007, the Information Commissioner's Office did not specifically keep records of instances of security breaches.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in Government.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223061]

Mr. Lammy: I am unable to provide the information requested on the grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 990W, on departmental home working, if he will make it his policy to collate and maintain central records of home working by his Department's staff. [222537]

Mr. Lammy: Information on staff employed contractually as home workers is maintained. However, some staff opt to work from home on an ad-hoc basis and these arrangements are agreed locally between the manager and individual. Information on these ad hoc home working arrangements will not be collated centrally.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what types of data have been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222101]

Mr. Lammy: Core information produced by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills can be reused free of charge under the terms of the PSI Click-Use Licence which is administered by the Office of Public Sector Information in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

Neither the core Department nor the National Weights and Measures Laboratory has charged for re-use of any data in the last 12 months. The UK Intellectual Property Office has charged for re-use of the following types of data:

UK patent bibliographic databases;
Supplementary Protection Certificates;
Bibliographic databases;
UK patent abstract data;
UK patent "A" image data;
UK patent "B" image data;
Reports on Patents Cases;
UK trade mark text database;
UK trade mark image database;
International trade marks with a UK designation.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [222099]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills provides no permanent residential accommodation for civil servants.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222109]

Mr. Lammy: The Department will not place in the Library the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. The Department's finance system can only produce a list of all organisations including commercial and non-commercial organisations that have received a payment form the Department. We would, however have to consider, on an individual basis, whether or not disclosure of that information might prejudice the commercial interests of the Department or the relevant organisation and that could be done only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222097]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created under the machinery of government changes in June 2007, since that time the Department and its agencies have spent the following on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework:

Company	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
	£	£
Porter Novelli Limited	52,214.15	11,843.06
Consolidated Communications Management Limited	99,113.00	—
Total	151,327.15	11,843.06

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1378W, on departmental retirement, how many requests to work beyond the maximum retirement age have been received by his Department since its creation. [222435]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not hold central records of requests to work beyond retirement age, but does maintain records of staff working beyond retirement age as referred to in my previous answer to the hon. Member.

Departmental Written Questions

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of written parliamentary questions he has been asked in the last 12 months was substantively unanswered *(a)* within one month, *(b)* within two months, *(c)* within three months and *(d)* after more than three months of the date of tabling. [221801]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221840]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was established under Machinery of Government changes in June 2007 and currently contracts according to the existing agreements put in place by its predecessor Departments being the Department for Education and Schools (now the Department for Children, Schools and Families—DCSF) and Department for Trade and Industry (now the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform—BERR).

BERR has not made any payments to EDF during the 2007-08 financial year.

DCSF have made payments to the value of £1,659,305.17 but the portion attributable to DIUS cannot be determined as a cross charge is made to DIUS based upon headcount for electricity charges, and floor space for gas. DIUS agency NWML has not made any payments to EDF.

DIUS agency UK-IPO have made the following payments for the supply of electricity to EDF (and London Electricity when they traded under that name):

Financial year	*£000*
2002-03	48
2003-04	116
2004-05	135
2005-06	179
2006-07	245
2007-08	230

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [221872]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is taking advantage of the opportunities which the games afford to enhance skills levels across a wide range of occupations and industrial sectors, in line with the broader objectives of the national Skills Strategy. There are 2.1 full-time equivalent members of staff allocated to co-ordinating this work within the Department, and 9.7 full-time equivalent members of staff dealing with this within the Learning and Skills Council across England. They deal with all aspects of project management, legacy planning and project oversight. Future staffing levels for this work are expected to remain at this level.

South East

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on services, broken down by type in *(a)* Dartford Borough, *(b)* Kent Thameside, *(c)* the Thames Gateway, *(d)* Kent County Council area and *(e)* the South East region in each of the last five years. [222447]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was established under machinery of government changes in June 2007. DIUS currently operates two financial ledgers. BERR continue to provide accounting services for the ex-DTI parts of DIUS and DCSF provide a similar service to ex-DfES elements. Our accounting systems record costs, including services based on their nature rather than the geographical region to which they pertain. To provide a response to this question would be at disproportionate cost.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222170]

Mr. Lammy: The Department is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work. A stress management framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards, is available to all employees and gives easy to use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

In addition, on 1 July 2008, a new Employee Assistance Programme was made available to all members of staff, providing them with enhanced employee care.

Training: Elderly

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution of skills improvement to reduce isolation of people over 60 years old. [222722]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to ensuring that learning serves the needs of the whole community, including older people both within and outside the work force. Our strategy for World Class Skills and our reforms of wider adult learning are designed to ensure that everyone, whatever their age or background, has the opportunity to improve their skills, prospects and quality of life.

We recognise how much older people value and enjoy their courses and the many wider benefits that taking part in learning can bring. There is good evidence that older people benefit substantially from participating in learning and acquiring new skills as part of a fulfilling and active retirement. As we set out in 'Opportunity Age', 80 per cent. of learners aged 50 to 71 reported a positive impact from learning in areas such as their enjoyment of life, self-confidence, and their ability to cope with events like divorce and bereavement, while 28 per cent. reported increased involvement in social, community and voluntary activities. For many older people, learning represents an important social activity, not only providing valuable opportunities for social interaction with their peers and members of other generations, but also offering valuable opportunities to share their own knowledge and skills through community volunteering activities.

Our recent consultation on informal adult learning has shown just how passionate people are about learning in later life and many older respondents have told us that the opportunities to engage in social activities and share experiences are as important as the learning itself. We are determined to identify and tackle the real and perceived barriers that face older learners and to ensure that the most marginalised and isolated older people are able to participate. We will continue the consultation dialogue with partners and stakeholders to develop a strategic and durable vision, with policy proposals that work for all older learners and potential learners.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what training in ICT skills his Department provides for people over 60 years old. [222723]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all learners, and that learning serves the needs of the whole community, including older people both within and outside the workforce. Our aim is to ensure that everyone in every community can lead healthy and fulfilling lives by participating fully in work, education and society as a whole.

The exact balance and mix of adult learning provision at local level is for the Learning and Skills Councils to determine in collaboration with colleges, private and third sector providers, learner representatives and other local partners, according to their assessment of the needs and priorities of their communities.

We recognise that ICT skills are an essential tool for everyday life, for work and for leisure, and that adults of all ages are seriously disadvantaged without ICT skills, especially those in marginalised groups and deprived communities. Over the last six years, £22 million has been invested to bring the benefits of technology to adults in personal and community development learning settings, supporting innovation projects and in establishing learning platforms in over 50 per cent. of local authorities. Around half of all learners over 60 are studying ICT. Some 1,700 people have been trained as e-guides, learning champions who work with more than 10,000 other tutors. 6,000 UK online centres—about half in public libraries, one third in the voluntary and community

sector and the rest in FE colleges and other organisations—are enabling people to access ICT, the internet and e-learning.

The contribution of new technology and broadcasting is a specific strand of our recent consultation on informal adult learning. We want to know how ICT might support new ways of learning and to work with partners, interest groups and networks to identify barriers and obstacles to making ICT learning resources more widely available. We are also working to bridge the digital divide by making new technologies accessible and helping people develop the skills they need to use them effectively. We are currently assessing the many good ideas and proposals we have received in response to the consultation, as part of a process that will lead to a major policy paper later in the year.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what training is available for people over 60 years old to *(a)* improve and *(b)* obtain generic financial skills. [222750]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to ensuring that older people in every community, both within and outside the workforce, have access to suitable high quality learning opportunities. Our strategy for world class skills and our recent wide-ranging consultation on informal adult learning have been designed to ensure that adults everywhere, whatever their age or background, have the opportunity to improve their skills, prospects, quality of life and personal wellbeing.

Increasing financial literacy and helping older people to make informed decisions about working longer and saving for retirement are key aims of "Opportunity Age", but the Government have also set out a wider, long-term strategy for improving the personal financial capability of people from all sections of the UK population. This is our response to the Thoresen Review, published in March 2008, which reports that large numbers of people from all sections of society are not taking basic steps to plan ahead, such as saving sufficiently for their retirement or putting money aside for when unexpected expenses occur. Many are unwittingly taking on significant financial risks because they struggle to choose products that truly meet their needs. Adults without basic literacy and numeracy are highly likely to struggle with their personal finances.

Since its launch in 2001, the "Skills for Life" strategy has provided in excess of £3 million to fund numeracy and financial capability. This has been embedded into the wider national strategy to improve adult literacy, language and numeracy. The programme is run on behalf of my Department by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). Its aim is to address the needs of basic literacy, language and numeracy learners through financial literacy, and in so doing to develop their capability to make effective decisions about the use and management of money. In developing the programme NIACE have resources and pilots in several areas. These projects are testing effective ways of engaging adults of all ages and delivering financial literacy in community settings.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 7 October 2008

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214727]

Mr. Woodward: To provide the breakdown of costs incurred by the Northern Ireland Office on public information campaigns from April 1997 to March 2000 would incur disproportionate costs; however, the overall costs for these years are as follows:

	£
1997-98	262,083.75
1998-99	428,390.82
1999-2000	Nil

The breakdown of costs from April 2000 to date is contained in the following table:

	Internet and website design and hosting (£)	*Print media design (£)*	*Broadcast media (£)*
2000-01	0.00	11,802.08	0.00
2001-02	8,364.24	12,483.18	0.00
2002-03	36,489.03	11,470.88	97,043.25
2003-04	40,598.43	24,798.22	56,088.55
2004-05	15,418.13	52,324.48	140,564.66
2005-06	12,556.25	48,554.44	196,842.23
2006-07	11,005.16	95,863.97	40,758.93
2007-08	19,476.60	154,793.00	165,720.68
2008-09	822.50	816.63	0.00
Total	144,730.34	412,906.88	697,018.30

Economic and Monetary Union

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1646W, on economic and monetary union, what the type of information in the changeover plan that prohibits publication is; and if he will redact that information and place an edited version in the Library. [222222]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office is unable to provide details of the Euro Changeover Plan as it contains the names and addresses of the Euro Co-ordinators as well as details of registered companies and computer packages which are to be used.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by his Department has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [222143]

Mr. Woodward: Since May 1997, my Department has taken forward nine primary enactments and one statutory instrument which have either introduced new, or amended existing, powers of entry in Northern Ireland. The relevant legislation is shown in the following lists.

Primary legislation introduced since May 1997 amending existing entry powers or containing new entry powers

Northern Ireland (Location of Victims' Remains) Act 1999;
Justice (NI) Act 2004;
Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2004;
Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004;
Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006;
Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007;
Police and Criminal Evidence (Amendment) (NI) Order 2007;
Policing (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 2007;
Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008.

Statutory instruments conferring one or more powers of entry coming into force since May 1997

Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Registration) Regulations (NI) 2007

The answer covers Acts, Orders in Council and statutory instruments on reserved and excepted matters. Northern Ireland Statutory Rules and legislation in the transferred field taken forward prior to the establishment and during the suspension of the Assembly have not been covered on the grounds that to do so would involve disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Channel Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings he has held with government representatives of *(a)* the Bailiwick of Guernsey, *(b)* Alderney and *(c)* Sark in the last 12 months. [222965]

Mr. Wills: There have been no meetings between the Secretary of State and Government representatives of Guernsey and Alderney during the period specified. There has been one meeting between the Secretary of State and the Seigneur of Sark (8 January 2008).

As the Minister responsible for the Crown Dependencies I have met with Government representatives of Guernsey on two occasions (22 November 2007 and 21 July 2008); and Government representatives of Sark on three occasions (8 and 24 January 2008 and 5 February 2008).

Governance of Britain

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials from his Department, *(c)* representatives of local authorities, *(d)* invited members of the public and *(e)* non-invited members of the public attended the "Governance of Britain" event in Brighton on 17th July; [223785]

(2) how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials from his Department, *(c)* representatives of local authorities, *(d)* invited members of the public and *(e)* non-invited members of the public attended the "Governance of Britain" event in London on 22nd July; [223788]

(3) how many *(a)* Ministers from his Department, *(b)* officials from his Department, *(c)* representatives of local authorities, *(d)* invited members of the public and *(e)* other members of the public attended the "Governance of Britain" event in (i) Nottingham on 9th July 2008 and (ii) Newcastle on 14th July 2008; [223825]

(4) how many *(a)* Ministers from his Department, *(b)* officials from his Department, *(c)* representatives of local authorities, *(d)* invited members of the public and *(e)* other members of the public attended the "Governance of Britain" event in Bristol on 30th June. [223826]

Mr. Wills: The "Governance of Britain" 'townhall' events were designed to engage those who are already active in their local communities in the Government's constitutional renewal agenda with an aim of encouraging them to take the debate put to their community groups and organisations.

All those who attended the event were invited to do so.

A breakdown of information requested for each event is shown in the following table.

	Brighton	*London*	*Bristol*	*Nottingham*	*Newcastle*
(a)	Michael Wills	Michael Wills	Michael Wills	Michael Wills	Michael Wills
(b)	5	5	5	5	5
(c)	2	2	11	10	7
(d)	25	27	25	27	16

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost was of the "Governance of Britain" consultation event held in Brighton on 17th July; [223786]

(2) what the cost was of the "Governance of Britain" consultation event held in London on 22nd July; [223787]

(3) what the cost was of the "Governance of Britain" consultation event held in Newcastle on 14th July; [223789]

(4) what expenditure his Department incurred in holding the "Governance of Britain" consultation event in Nottingham on 9th July; [223827]

(5) what expenditure his Department incurred in holding the "Governance of Britain" consultation event in Bristol on 30th June. [223828]

Mr. Wills: The total cost of the "Governance of Britain" events as requested are as follows:

Venue	*Date*	*Cost of event (£)*
Brighton	17 July	593.83
London	22 July	1,538.09
Newcastle	14 July	686.50
Nottingham	9 July	676.00
Bristol	30 June	435.00

Note:
All costs were inclusive of value added tax.

Land: Measurement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Land Registry plans to use hectares as a unit of measurement. [223951]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry requires the use of metric measurements on any documents dated on or after 1 October 1995. Any imperial measurements in such documents must appear as supplementary indications only and will usually be placed in brackets, for example, 22.86 m (75 feet).

Land Registry similarly only uses imperial units of measurement on the register and title plan as supplementary indications (in brackets) or where they are included in a verbatim extract from a deed dated prior to 1 October 1995.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans the Electoral Commission has to respond to the proposals set out in the party finance and expenditure White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [221462]

Sir Peter Viggers: I have been asked to reply.

The Electoral Commission informs me that it has published a response to the White Paper, Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom, which is available on the Commission's website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

The Commission will now consider carefully all aspects of the Political Parties and Elections Bill relevant to its work before setting out its views in more detail prior to the Bill's second reading in the House of Commons.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Leader of the House what arrangements her Office has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222168]

Chris Bryant: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has an external employee counselling service, it regularly consults staff on reducing stress at work and it provides easy to use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

I am delighted that no staff have taken leave for stress over the last four years.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions from which part of his Department's budget funding to raise the Access to Work budget will be drawn. [223162]

James Purnell *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* On 21 July 2008, the Department published its Green Paper 'No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility'. Despite a fourfold increase in funding

over the last 10 years, we recognise the need to expand the service to provide more help to more people. We are doubling the budget on Access to Work. This will be a major expansion of the support we can offer to disabled people to help them get and sustain employment. We estimate that this will expand the programme's capacity to around 48,000 people by 2013-14. The extra funding being made available is in addition to what was agreed in the 2007 spending review settlement.

Child Benefit: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of calls to the Child Benefit Helpline were *(a)* answered by a representative, *(b)* received an automated message, *(c)* logged with the promise of a call-back and *(d)* responded to in another manner in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223434]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The table below provides the details of the information requested where it is available. In answer to part *(b)* all calls received by the Child Benefit Helpline receive an automated message of some kind. It is not possible to calculate the relative proportions of the different groups with the information available.

Child Benefit	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
(b) Calls received[1]	n/a	5,041,079	3,687,025	4,026,335	4,806,978
(a) Calls Handled[2]	n/a	3,360,272	3,091,750	3,483,386	4,336,202
(c)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] Calls received: where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and was put in a queue to speak to an adviser.
[2] Calls handled: where the caller spoke to an adviser.

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or the administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222281]

James Purnell: This Government are firmly committed to the importance of the EU in delivering on 21st century challenges. The EU is of central importance to the work of HM Government across all Departments. It is relevant to a wide range of policy areas, and to the work of approximately 380 officials in the Department for Work and Pensions.

Housing Benefits

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what spending was on housing benefit and related benefits in each of the last 20 years, broken down by *(a)* type of tenancy and *(b)* category of housing provision. [221775]

James Purnell: The available information is in the following tables.

Housing benefit expenditure by tenure and provision, Great Britain

Nominal out-turn: £ million

	Rent rebate	*Rent allowance*				
	Local authority	*Registered social landlords*	*Private rented sector*	*Total rent allowance*	*Minor housing benefits*	*Total housing benefit*
1987-88	2,506	n/a	n/a	1,030	0	3,536
1988-89	2,653	n/a	n/a	1,071	34	3,757
1989-90	2,867	n/a	n/a	1,365	26	4,258
1990-91	3,329	n/a	n/a	1,767	11	5,106
1991-92	3,945	n/a	n/a	2,413	4	6,363
1992-93	4,566	676	2,570	3,246	2	7,814
1993-94	5,028	974	3,214	4,189	1	9,218
1994-95	5,228	1,309	3,567	4,875	1	10,104
1995-96	5,430	1,640	3,804	5,445	2	10,876
1996-97	5,569	1,991	3,820	5,810	0	11,380
1997-98	5,498	2,242	3,437	5,679	0	11,177
1998-99	5,405	2,480	3,180	5,660	1	11,065
1999-2000	5,345	2,753	2,966	5,719	0	11,064
2000-01	5,258	3,053	2,851	5,904	0	11,162
2001-02	5,282	3,482	2,824	6,306	0	11,589
2002-03	5,405	4,199	3,032	7,231	0	12,637
2003-04	5,027	4,291	3,023	7,314	0	12,342
2004-05	5,200	4,603	3,354	7,957	0	13,158

Housing benefit expenditure by tenure and provision. Great Britain

Nominal out-turn: £ million

	Rent rebate	Rent allowance				
	Local authority	Registered social landlords	Private rented sector	Total rent allowance	Minor housing benefits	Total housing benefit
2005-06	5,263	4,950	3,716	8,666	0	13,928
2006-07	5,368	5,328	4,144	9,472	0	14,840

Housing benefit expenditure by tenure and provision. Great Britain

Real terms 2008-09 prices: £ million

	Rent rebate	Rent allowance				
	Local authority	Registered social landlords	Private rented sector	Total rent allowance	Minor housing benefits	Total housing benefit
1987-88	5,128	n/a	n/a	2,108	0	7,236
1988-89	5,074	n/a	n/a	2,048	65	7,187
1989-90	5,117	n/a	n/a	2,437	46	7,600
1990-91	5,508	n/a	n/a	2,924	18	8,450
1991-92	6,154	n/a	n/a	3,765	7	9,925
1992-93	6,899	1,022	3,883	4,904	3	11,807
1993-94	7,405	1,434	4,734	6,168	2	13,575
1994-95	7,584	1,898	5,174	7,072	1	14,657
1995-96	7,645	2,309	5,356	7,666	2	15,313
1996-97	7,586	2,711	5,202	7,914	0	15,499
1997-98	7,275	2,967	4,548	7,515	0	14,790
1998-99	6,976	3,201	4,104	7,305	1	14,281
1999-2000	6,762	3,483	3,753	7,236	0	13,997
2000-01	6,559	3,808	3,556	7,364	0	13,923
2001-02	6,435	4,242	3,440	7,682	0	14,117
2002-03	6,385	4,960	3,581	8,541	0	14,926
2003-04	5,771	4,926	3,470	8,396	0	14,167
2004-05	5,809	5,142	3,747	8,889	0	14,698
2005-06	5,757	5,415	4,065	9,480	0	15,237
2006-07	5,709	5,666	4,407	10,073	0	15,782

Notes:
1. Information sourced from local authority claims for housing revenue account subsidy and housing benefit subsidy.
2. Figures to 2005-06 are taken from the final audited subsidy claims submitted to the Department by each local authority.
3. Figures for 2006-07 are not yet audited, and represent provisional out-turn for the year.
4. Figures exclude Asylum Seekers from April 1999, since when the National Asylum Support Service has reimbursed DWP for benefits paid to asylum seekers.
5. From 2004-05 rent rebate expenditure responsibility transferred to DWP.
6. Separation of rent allowance into private rental sector and registered social landlord elements is an estimate derived from the quarterly administrative data on caseloads and average awards. This breakdown is only available from 1992-93.
7. Expenditure on minor housing benefits reflects transitional spending following the reform of housing benefit in 1988. It is not possible to identify the tenure of minor housing benefits so these are shown separately.
8. Figures are total amounts paid to beneficiaries, irrespective of the source of funding, and include benefit spending reimbursed by DWP, spending on rent rebates financed within local authorities' housing revenue accounts, and benefit spending financed from local authorities' general funds.
9. Figures reflect the latest benefit-by-benefit estimate of out-turn, and not the amounts voted by Parliament.
10. Figures for 1999-2000 onwards are on a resource accounting and budgeting basis. There may be differences between figures quoted in these tables and those quoted in Department for Work and Pensions accounts.
11. Figures for past years may have changed since previous publication due to changes in methodology and the incorporation of more up-to-date information.
12.Totals may not sum due to rounding.
13. Real terms have been calculated using Gross Domestic Product deflators updated after the 2008 Budget report on 12 March 2008.

Source:
DWP expenditure tables

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent members of staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; how many of them are working on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels. [221878]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Work area	*FTE*
Project Management	3.3
Legacy Planning	1.4
Project Oversight	0.8
Financial Oversight	0
Total	5.5

Our current work force plans extend to 2010. Over this period we anticipate recruiting one additional person to work across project oversight and legacy planning.

Pensioners: Personal Income

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income for households where all occupants are of pensionable age is in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wakefield district and *(c)* Hemsworth constituency. [223976]

James Purnell: The information that is available is shown in the following table. Information cannot be provided at a lower level than Government office region, averaged over three years. Figures are based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error. Figures are based on the average of three years' data as single year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes.

Average gross income of pensioner units where all members are state pension age or over, 2004-05 to 2006-07

	£ per week, (2006-07 prices)
Yorkshire and the Humber	293
England	327

Notes:
1. Gross income is income from all sources received by the pensioner unit including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits.
2. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error. Figures are based on the average of three years' data as single year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Further information for single years at a national level are available in the publication 'Pensioners' Income Series 2006-07'.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £.
4. Figures are based on the average incomes of pensioner units (couples or singles) where all members are state pension age or over.
Source:
Pensioners' Income Series 2006-07

Pensions: Mining

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income for households which include at least one person in receipt of a miner's pension is in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wakefield district and *(c)* Hemsworth constituency. [223975]

James Purnell: The information is not available.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average pension payable to former miners is in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wakefield district and *(c)* Hemsworth constituency. [223977]

James Purnell: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Interviews

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what qualitative evaluation he has made of the customer experience of work-focussed interviews; and if he will make a statement. [223247]

James Purnell *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The Department for Work and Pensions conducts a wide range of research to inform the strategic development and operational delivery of its policies. This includes formal evaluations of employment programmes and pilots, as well as more strategic research on work-related and service delivery issues. Other research considers, more broadly, customer satisfaction with various aspects of Jobcentre Plus provision.

Work-focused Interviews are one of the main ways through which Jobcentre Plus services are made available to its customers. Large bodies of evaluation evidence exist on work-focused Interviews, including qualitative studies of customers' experiences, large scale quantitative surveys of clients' journeys through Jobcentre Plus services and case studies of the delivery of client based services.

Comprehensive programmes of evaluation have taken place. All research reports are available in the House of Commons Library and are also available on the DWP website.

A list of relevant recently published research has been placed in the Library.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use the Government Equalities Office has made of Dorneywood for official engagements since its establishment. [222348]

James Purnell: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Since then, it has not made use of Dorneywood for official engagements.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the honourable Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what procedures there are for regulated *(a)* donees and *(b)* donors to appeal against sanctions imposed on them by the Commission. [222970]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has no power to impose unilaterally any sanction on regulated donees or donors. Where the Commission establishes that a regulated donee has accepted a donation from an impermissible source, it may apply for a forfeiture order through a magistrates' court.

Cases of suspected criminal offences committed by donees and donors under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) are referred by the Commission to the police, or in the case of Scotland, to the Procurator Fiscal, where the Commission believes there is sufficient evidence and it is in the public interest to do so. The appeal procedure in each case is through the judicial system.

Norman Baker: To ask the honourable Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what factors the Electoral Commission takes into account when deciding whether it is in the public interest to refer to the police a case of a regulated donee notifying it late of a political donation; and who in the Commission takes such decisions. [222974]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it takes a variety of factors into account when deciding whether it is in the public interest to refer such cases to the police. These include the nature and gravity of the offence, the motive, mitigating circumstances, the effect of a prosecution on the accused, the risk of

further offences, the availability of a more appropriate civil or other remedy, the powers of the court, and the public concern. Decisions regarding such referrals are taken by the Electoral Commissioners.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the honourable Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, with reference to the Electoral Commission's consultation paper on Standardising Statements of Accounts for Parties and Accounting Units, what the evidential basis is for the need for standardisation; what advice the Commission has obtained on the matter from *(a)* accountants and *(b)* auditors in public practice and from their professional bodies; and what research has been undertaken or commissioned by the Commission on the matter. [224321]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that evidence of the need for greater transparency in the accounts of registered parties and their accounting units has been set out in a number of reports, including the first report of Session 2006-07 of the then Constitutional Affairs Committee of the House of Commons (HC 163-1). Paragraph 39 of that report recommended that:

"Despite the introduction of a duty to produce accounts under PPERA, a lack of common accounting practices makes it difficult to compile a comprehensive account of the income profiles of the political parties. The Government should ensure that the Electoral Commission produce more digestible, thorough and transparent figures of both the private and public sources of party income."

The Commission launched its public consultation on the standardisation of statements of accounts in July 2008 and invited the major accountancy bodies to respond to the consultation. The Commission informs me that in April 2008 it engaged an experienced public sector auditor to assist with developing the consultation and an audit strategy, and that a contract for professional accountancy advice and support on producing a guidance manual and delivering a training package for party and accounting unit treasurers is likely to be finalised shortly. The Commission has not undertaken or commissioned other research on this subject.

Powers

John Bercow: To ask the honourable Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, whether the Electoral Commission has made representations to the Government on proposals for extending its investigative and punitive powers. [223875]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it made representations supporting more proportionate and flexible penalties and the ability to apply a range of sanctions in 2003, when it published its review, Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act: Recommendations for change, which it submitted to the Government.

The Commission further informs me that in 2006 it called for wider sanctions during evidence provided to the eleventh enquiry of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

In July 2008, the Commission reiterated its support for a widened range of sanctions and investigatory powers in its response to the Government's White Paper Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom.

In the Commission's most recent briefing paper responding to the Political Parties and Elections Bill, it again welcomed and reiterated its strong support for the provisions in the Bill to widen its sanctioning and investigation powers. Copies of this briefing paper have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for what reasons his Department's funding for Adult Learning Support at Chelmsford college fell by 6.4 per cent. in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [224494]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* Overall investment in the post-16 further education sector has increased significantly—by 53 per cent. in real terms between 1997 and 2008. Chelmsford college's overall LSC funding has increased by 3.7 per cent. compared with the previous year.

Following a consultation in January 2007 and subsequent work through LSC advisory groups, changes were made to the way additional learning support was calculated for 2008/09. These changes were introduced to ensure that the funding was better focused on need rather than purely on an historical basis.

ALS now has a funding formula that has two levels, low cost and high cost. For learners aged 16-18, low cost claims—that is, those under £5,500—will be allocated using the learners' GCSE English and Maths points profile from the college's previous year's cohort.

For learners over the age of 19, low level claims are based on the level of qualification being studied.

To allow for transitional arrangements for ALS, and to minimise the impact on colleges' budgets, 60 per cent. of the low cost ALS has been distributed using the formula approach in 2008/09. The remaining 40 per cent. has been allocated on the basis of the historical proportion of the budget. The intention is to move to 75 per cent. (formula)/ 25 per cent. (allocation) in 2009/10.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Learning and Skills Council allocated to Adult Learning Support at *(a)* higher education colleges in Essex and *(b)* at Chelmsford college in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [224521]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* Until the academic year 2007-08, Additional Learning Support (ALS) was allocated as a lump sum to Further Education (FE) Colleges based on historical spend. From 2008-09 ALS allocations have, for the first time, been differentiated by age group and have used a formula based approach to more accurately reflect need.

The LSC has responsibility for the funding of post-16 further education and training (other than higher education). As a result, table 1 below shows the ALS allocated for FE colleges in the Essex area with information on Chelmsford college in the table that follows.

ALS Allocations FE colleges in Essex

Essex ALS (FE)	*Allocation (£)*	*Difference (£)*	*Percentage difference*
2007-08 total	9,387,920		
2008-09 total	8,932,072	(455,848)	-4.8

FE ALS allocations Chelmsford college

Chelmsford college	*Allocation (£)*	*Difference (£)*	*Percentage difference*
2007-08 total	737,620		
2008-09 total	690,948	(46,672)	-6.3

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [222098]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS itself has not made any direct recent use of either MOSAIC or ACORN. The following is a summary of known examples of use and general extent of use in agencies and their contractors. There may be some use where MOSAIC or ACORN are used indirectly by external contractors which we have not been able to identify in collating the information for this reply.

Some regional Learning and Skills Councils (LSC) use MOSAIC to a limited extent. Contractors working on behalf of LSC may recommend it for projects where the aim is to analyse the population in certain areas, or understand which particular groups are accessing/not accessing learning. For example the LSC South East project uses MOSAIC neighbourhood types to identify and map NEET (Not in Education Training or Employment) hotspots in the South East.

The Student Loans Company hires a modelling tool from Experian which relies on some MOSAIC data and which predicts the likelihood to repay of student loans mortgage style accounts.

ACORN is to be used for the LSC Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work project (activity to be undertaken November/December 2008)—profiling the population of England against the target audience (struggling families) to help plan where door drop activity should take place. It is also used to target media activity for the Skills for Life campaign.

Ufi (University for Industry) uses ACORN data in its marketing campaigns to promote learndirect learning.

No other use of MOSAIC or ACORN has been reported by DIUS or any of its agencies.

Environment: Research

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government have taken to encourage UK-based research on environment issues. [224184]

Mr. Lammy: The Government provides funding to the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), which in turn funds independent environmental research in the United Kingdom. NERC's funding from DIUS's science and research budget, has risen from £259 million in 2003-04 to £392 million in 2008-09. The increased sum includes support for the major new £1 billion programme living with environmental change, launched on 18 June, involving a wide range of partners, to which NERC and the other research councils are providing £363 million over the current spending review period.. The Department also funds the Higher Education Funding Council for England which provides quality related funding for research, including environmental research, in English Higher Education Institutes.

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222272]

Mr. Lammy: The Joint International Unit (JIU) supports both the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families by promoting and defending the interests of the two Departments; and overseeing the delivery of EU education training and youth programmes. A total of 10 JIU staff work on this EU business for the two Departments. In addition, there are 10 staff working wholly on EU business in the Government Office for Science and the Intellectual Property Office.

Higher Education: Finance

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what plans he has for the *(a)* timetable, *(b)* remit and *(c)* methodology for the review of higher education funding planned for 2009; [224461]

(2) what assessment he has made of the equitable outcomes of university schemes to distribute bursaries to students; and what consideration he has given to developing a single national bursary scheme to apply to all universities. [224446]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* Under the current arrangements, institutions are required to pay a minimum bursary to all students receiving the maximum grant. Beyond this, it is for institutions themselves, subject to approval from OFFA, to decide how to support their students. The latest figures show that acceptances to universities for England are at an all time high, with the proportion of applicants from lower socio-economic groups also up. A national bursary scheme would be very complex and costly to administer, and would lead to reduced support for students at a number of universities, damaging our fair access agenda.

As we made clear during the passage of the legislation introducing the new fee and student support arrangements, there will be an independent review in 2009 which will work on the basis of evidence from the first three years' operation of the variable fee arrangements. The review will report to Parliament. The draft terms of reference were announced to Parliament in 2004 by the then Secretary of State. The final details about the arrangements for the review, its remit and methodology will be determined in due course. That will take place after the Government have conducted a wider debate among both higher education providers and users which will set the framework for the future of Higher Education over the next ten to

fifteen years. The Secretary of State recently announced the next steps to that process in his speech to Universities UK at Cambridge.

Higher Education: Israel

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what discussions his Department has had with universities and colleges on their response to the boycott by the University and College Union of Israeli Academics; [222805]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on the reputation and attractiveness of British universities to prospective students of a boycott of Israeli academics by the University and College Union. [222806]

Mr. Lammy: The UK Government fully support academic freedom and are firmly against any academic boycotts of Israel or Israeli academics.

Boycotts and any severing of links with Israel would be counterproductive, and completely at odds with the principles of open exchange that should underpin academic life. I profoundly believe ending such links would do nothing to promote the Middle East peace process. Both Israel and the occupied territories contain progressives and reactionaries, and the problem with boycotts or moves to severe links is that they make the job of progressives much more difficult and entrench the position of the reactionaries.

The UK Government have made their support of international academic links clear. Alongside the Israeli Government, we have actively supported the establishment of the Britain Israel Research and Academic Exchange partnership—BIRAX—which aims to strengthen academic links between the UK and Israel through the awarding of grants to support academic exchanges for research purposes. We are exploring options for supporting academics in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Science: Research

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Government spent on scientific research in 2007-08. [224183]

Mr. Lammy: The following table sets out the latest outturn (2005-06), the estimated outturn (2006-07) and the CSR plan (2007-08) for net Government expenditure on research and development in cash terms.

£ million

		Outturn 2005-06	Estimated outturn 2006-07	CSR plan 2007-08
Science budget	OSI—DIUS	578	760	704
	BBSRC	322	357	375
	ESRC	125	146	162
	MRC	416	487	500
	NERC	373	375	399
	EPSRC	555	664	746
	PPARC	334	334	—
	CCLRC	84	103	—
	STFC	—	—	460
	AHRC	69	83	102
	Pensions/Other	15	17	27
Total Science budget		2,871	3,327	3,476
Higher Education Funding Councils	HEFC	1,928	2,059	2,188
Total HE funding councils		1,928	2,059	2,188
Total Science and Engineering base		4,800	5,387	5,664
Civil departments	DEFRA	288	300	324
	DCSF	100	87	62
	DCLG	27	24	24
	DfT	61	58	68
	DH (including NHS)	628	668	734
	NHS	583	621	687
	DWP (including DSS)	18	17	17
	HSC	22	20	19
	HO	73	59	49
	DCMS	23	21	23
	DFID	265	256	253
	DTI (ex OST and Launch Investment)	300	261	266
	Net Launch Investment	-158.3	-142.9	-131.2
	NI departments	21	22	22
	SE (formerly SO)	209	228	247
	WAG (formerly WO)	33	34	36
	FSA	17	14	14
	Other departments	38	39	42
Total Civil departments		1,965	1,966	2,069
Total Civil		6,765	7,353	7,733
MoD				
of which:	Research	598	600	640
	Development	1,921	2,068	2,061
Total Defence		2,519	2,668	2,701
Total		9,284	10,020	10,434
Indicative UK contribution to the EU R and D budget		365	377	354
Grand total		9,649	10,397	10,788
Grand total (ex NHS)		9,066	9,777	10,101

Source:
ONS Government R and D Survey

Students: Disabled

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of students classified as having a *(a)* hearing and *(b)* vision impairment (i) applied to and (ii) were admitted into university in each of the last 10 years. [223759]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is shown in the tables. Comparable figures for 2008 entry will be available in February 2009.

Table 1: UK domiciled applicants to full-time undergraduate courses by disability, 1998 to 2007 years of entry

Year of entry	Blind/partially sighted[1]		Deaf/partial hearing[1]	
	Number	Percentage of total applicants	Number	Percentage of total applicants
1998	401	0.1	726	0.2
1999	401	0.1	728	0.2
2000	456	0.1	793	0.2
2001	598	0.1	868	0.2
2002	602	0.1	875	0.2
2003	641	0.2	900	0.2
2004	604	0.2	897	0.2
2005	707	0.2	1,078	0.2
2006	779	0.2	1,211	0.3
2007	711	0.2	1,210	0.3

[1] Applicants who are blind/partially sighted or deaf/partial hearing may be counted in the category of 2+ disabilities, therefore such applicants are excluded from the above figures.

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Table 2: UK domiciled accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses by disability, 1998 to 2007 years of entry

Year of entry	Blind/partially sighted[1]		Deaf/partial hearing[1]	
	Number	Percentage of total applicants	Number	Percentage of total applicants
1998	293	0.1	544	0.2
1999	312	0.1	559	0.2
2000	370	0.1	621	0.2
2001	467	0.1	696	0.2
2002	501	0.2	709	0.2
2003	507	0.2	715	0.2
2004	470	0.1	722	0.2
2005	558	0.2	854	0.2
2006	589	0.2	927	0.3
2007	539	0.1	930	0.3

[1] Accepted applicants who are blind/partially sighted or deaf/partial hearing may be counted in the category of 2+ disabilities, therefore such accepted applicants are excluded from the above figures.

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Students: Finance

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much HEFCE allocated *(a)* nationally and *(b)* to (i) Leeds University, (ii) Leeds Metropolitan University and (iii) Trinity and All Saints College for student bursary schemes for the academic year 2007-08; and how much of this funding was unspent at the latest date for which figures are available. [224460]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* HEFCE does not allocate funding for student bursary schemes. Instead, each higher education provider which wishes to charge variable tuition fees for regulated courses has to agree an access agreement with the Office of Fair Access (OFFA) under which it commits to recycle some of the extra income from variable fees to support some of its students. Information on the 2007/08 academic year will become available in the spring. The following table sets out the position for 2006/07—the first year of the new arrangements.

£

	Amount budgeted for bursary schemes	Amount spent
Leeds University	2,500,000	1,500,000
Leeds Metropolitan University	n/a	42,000
Trinity and All Saints College	115,000	83,000
England	115,000,000	96,000,000

n/a = Not applicable

Notes:
1. Many HEIs overestimated the number of students who were eligible for bursaries in the first year of the new arrangements. Where "underspends" have occurred some HEIs have chosen to redeploy the resources towards additional outreach activities designed to attract students from non-traditional backgrounds.
2. Leeds Metropolitan University does not charge fees at a level which requires bursaries to be recycled within the terms of their approved access agreement.

Source:
2006/07 returns to OFFA

Students: Loans

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his most recent estimate is of how much revenue will be raised from selling parts of the student loan book as a result of the Sale of Student Loans Act 2008. [224170]

Mr. Lammy: The Sale of Student Loans Act 2008 enables an indefinite programme of sales of income-contingent repayment student loans. For each sale to proceed, it will have to be assessed as yielding good value for money. No estimate has been made of how much revenue will be raised in the long term. Any update to the original estimates of proceeds over the comprehensive spending review period will be set out in the pre-Budget report.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what measures are in place in his Office to monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes; [219591]

(2) what purchasing process is used by his Office for the procurement of alcohol for hospitality purposes. [219941]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1433W.

Departmental Industrial Health and Safety

Philip Davies: To ask the Prime Minister how many incidents have been reported by his Office under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 since 27 June 2007. [222638]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff, West (Kevin Brennan) earlier.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Office has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case; [221358]

(2) what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Office since 27 June 2007. [221369]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff, West (Kevin Brennan) earlier.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many and what percentage of staff in his Office have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years; [218710]

(2) how many staff in 10 Downing street have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218978]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) earlier.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Information

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to implement the recommendations of the Power of Information report produced by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit. [219044]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The Power of Information report was written by Tom Steinberg (MySociety) and Ed Mayo (National Consumer Council). It was published on 7 June 2007.

The Government accepted the recommendations of the Power of Information Review in the Official Response, published on 25 June 2007. The response can be found online at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/~/media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/publications/reports/power_information/power_information_response%20pdf.ashx

An interim progress report was published in March this year at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/power_of_information.aspx

Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library.

TRANSPORT

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what notional price per barrel of oil is used by her Department when determining whether new road schemes represent value for money. [224532]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* Oil price assumptions are provided by BERR (Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) and the Department for Transport has released guidance that uses the latest (May 2008) BERR central oil price figures to produce fuel price forecasts used in highway scheme appraisal.

Central oil prices are projected to fall back from today's level to $65 in 2010 (2007 prices) before gradually rising again to $75 (2007 prices) in 2030. These correspond to nominal prices of $71 (in 2010) to $140 (in 2030).

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Data Protection: Manpower

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* its agency work exclusively on data protection issues, broken down by grade. [215095]

Kevin Brennan: Staff in a number of units within the Cabinet Office, including Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Security Policy Division, Transformational Government, Historical Records and Openness Unit as well as Financial and Estates Management, are involved in work related to data protection issues.

It is estimated that in excess of 20 full-time equivalent civil servants are directly engaged on work to protect information held by the Cabinet Office or on policy for the protection of information for Government.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether those staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [221992]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 153W.

Departmental Appeals

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on how many occasions the Cabinet Office has instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220829]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office seeks advice from the Treasury Solicitor's Department on legal matters throughout the year. However, the information requested is not held centrally and can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Central Office of Information which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [221988]

Kevin Brennan: Neither the Cabinet Office nor the Central Office of Information has newly occupied any offices over the last 24 months.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to page 106 of the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08, if he will provide a breakdown of the fixed asset expenditure incurred in relation to the *(a)* £4.7 million on 10 to 12 Downing Street, *(b)* £2.0 million on 70 Whitehall, *(c)* £1.2 million on Admiralty Arch and *(d)* £0.5 million on minor spend, furniture and fittings. [222485]

Kevin Brennan: A breakdown of the fixed asset figures provided on page 106 of the Cabinet Office annual report and accounts 2007-08 into specified work packages can only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in his Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost per year of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [217859]

Mr. Watson: As part of the Department's continuing sustainable development programme, we use software tools on the corporate IT network to remotely switch off overnight all desk top computers that are logged off but are not switched off. All staff are instructed to switch off their computers and monitors when not in use; this software supports this instruction. Statistics are not collated on those computers left switched-on.

Departmental Health and Safety

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many incidents have been reported by his Department under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 since 27 June 2007. [222637]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 593W.

Departmental Mobile Telephones

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many mobile telephones have been *(a)* purchased, *(b)* repaired and *(c)* replaced by the Prime Minister's Office since 27 June 2007. [222602]

Kevin Brennan: In the calendar year since 27 June 2007, the Cabinet Office, which includes the Prime Minister's Office, has purchased 237 mobile phones, had five repaired and replaced 41.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [221991]

Kevin Brennan: No Cabinet Office civil servants are provided with permanent residential accommodation at public expense.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case; [221346]

(2) what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221373]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office held three events in March 2008 to identify the most effective way to deliver improved community safety in partnership with local people as part of the crime and communities review. The events were attended by over 600 people and comprised of open discussions and interactive audience participation. The events cost a total of £256,632, including VAT.

Following a competitive tendering exercise, M Integrated Solutions was awarded the contract and was paid £250,758, including VAT. The Central Office of Information was paid £5,874 to cover the tendering and other administrative costs.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years; [218727]

(2) how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218961]

Mr. Watson: The incidence of Cabinet Office reported periods of staff sickness absence and headcount vary during each year. The number of staff with periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years are detailed in the following table and are expressed as percentages of the Department's average annual headcounts.

	Five or more of less than five days	*Percentage*	*Four of less than five days*	*Percentage*	*Three of less than five days*	*Percentage*	*Two of less than five days*	*Percentage*
2007	49	3.5	29	2.1	75	5.4	129	9.3
2006	67	4.1	42	2.6	76	4.6	157	9.5
2005	51	2.8	52	2.9	102	5.6	206	11.3

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many applications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [221987]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office is not named under Schedule 1 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Therefore, it has made no applications under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

Departmental Television

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 238W, on departmental television, what premium satellite channels or packages are subscribed to by his Department for each of the three subscriptions. [222781]

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 238W, on departmental television, what the premium channels subscribed to are. [222216]

Kevin Brennan: The premium packages the Department subscribes to are Sky Mixes and Sky General.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210555]

Mr. Watson: The Department has spent the following amounts on training, language courses, conferences and seminars in the last five years:

	£ *Expenditure*
2007-08	2,215,979
2006-07	2,156,453
2005-06	2,313,361
2004-05	2,227,753
2003-04	2,194,182

Government Departments: Public Participation

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent guidance the Cabinet Office has issued on the manner in which public consultations should be conducted by Government Departments and their agencies; and whether an insistence on the use of designated response forms is compliant with that guidance. [224244]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government have recently revised their Code of Practice on Consultation. The new code, which will be supported by practical guidance, takes effect from November 2008. The current code and the new code set out good practice principles that Departments should adhere to when running formal, written consultation exercises and as such, they do not prescribe the approach that Departments should take with regard to submitting their responses.

Intelligence Services: Vetting

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 396W, on intelligence services: vetting, for what reason information on security vetting is not held centrally; what arrangements are in place for the collation and co-ordination of information received through security vetting; and if he will make a statement. [220543]

Kevin Brennan: Government Departments collect information and make decisions in respect of staff and contractors as part of the security vetting process. This information is classed as sensitive personal data and there is currently no requirement for such information to be held centrally. There is provision for Government Departments to share information on individual cases as necessary.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what figures were collated by the Office for National Statistics on the net cost of the national health service in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 11 years. [224075]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 7 October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question on which figures are collated by the Office for National Statistics on the net cost of the National Health Service in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 11 years. (224075)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collates and publishes data on the expenditure by Government on health services overall, but does not collate statistics on the NHS alone. Examples of Government expenditure on health services outside the NHS are the expenditure on health by Ministry of Defence, and the education and training of NHS medical staff.

Data on Government expenditure on health are sourced from HM Treasury at a UK level, and are not collated or published by country or region of the UK.

In January 2007 the ONS published an article 'Public Service Productivity: Health Care'. This article contained a table showing general government final consumption expenditure on health from 1995 to 2006. The table is shown below.

Expenditure on general government health care: 1995 to 2006 United Kingdom

£ billion

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Average annual change 1995-2006 (%)
Labour	22.7	23.5	24.5	25.4	26.6	28.9	31.5	34.8	38.3	41.1	44.2	47.3	6.9
Goods and services	15.4	17.2	17.1	19.0	22.6	23.2	25.3	26.6	29.7	33.9	36.6	40.5	9.2
Capital consumption	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	3.5
Total	39.4	42.0	43.0	45.9	50.8	53.7	58.4	63.1	69.8	76.7	82.6	89.7	7.8

Note:
1. These figures differ from those used in Blue Book 2007 (ONS 2007d), as they incorporate data revisions to the historical series. Also, by convention, Blue Book 2007 includes expenditure on capital items in GP surgeries within intermediate consumption. The estimates in this table include such expenditure in capital consumption.

Non-profit Making Associations: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what funding his Department has provided for social enterprises delivering public services in West Lancashire constituency in the last 12 months. [221885]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector has provided £215 million to the Futurebuilders programme to make grants and loans to third sector organisations, including social enterprises, delivering public services in England.

In the last twelve months, Futurebuilders England has invested £10,627.00 in Bickerstaffe Children's Services to help build a childcare and family facility in rural West Lancashire.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* the Prime Minister's Office spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223038]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Due to the way that taxi costs are recorded on the Cabinet Office accounting system, it is not possible to extract the information requested without incurring disproportionate costs.

All official travel in the Department is undertaken strictly in accordance with the rules contained in the Cabinet Office Management Code.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to which third sector organisations his Department has awarded Improving Reach funding; and how much was awarded in each case. [223978]

Kevin Brennan: The Improving Reach grants are awarded by Capacitybuilders, a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Office of the Third Sector.

Details of the organisations receiving Improving Reach grants during the current phase of the programme and how much each organisation receives are available through the following website.

http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/Resources/a/j/x/Funding%20allocations.pdf

A list of the third sector organisations which were funded through the pilot phase of the Improving Reach programme and how much each organisation received is available through the following website.

http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/downloadfile.aspx?ID=112

This information has been placed in the Libraries in the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of alcohol referral pilots; and how many people have *(a)* been subject to referral and *(b)* completed such referral in each of the pilot areas. [222648]

Mr. Coaker: The current alcohol arrest referral (AAR) pilots in Manchester, Liverpool, Ealing and Chester are subject to a vigorous evaluation process. This is being conducted by external evaluators from Liverpool John Moores University and Risk Solutions consultancy. Preliminary findings on re-offending data six months post-intervention and the throughput figures for offenders referred/receiving interventions will be received from the external evaluators in December 2008, with the final report due in July 2009.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licensees in *(a)* St Albans, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England were prosecuted for selling alcohol to under-18 year olds in each of the last three years. [222028]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 190W.

Statistics for St. Albans cannot be provided as data are not collected to this level of detail by the Ministry of Justice.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions of people aged 10 to 17 years there were for being drunk and disorderly in *(a)* the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire, *(b)* the Test Valley borough and *(c)* Southampton in each year since 1997. [222295]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 188W.

Statistics for Test Valley and Southampton cannot be provided as data are not collected to this level of detail by the Ministry of Justice.

Anti-social Behaviour Orders

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of anti-social behaviour orders. [224292]

Mr. Coaker: Three independent reports including the Home Affairs Select Committee report (2005), the Audit Commission report (May 2006) and the NAO report (December 2006) have confirmed our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is working. Indeed the NAO reported that 65 per cent. of people stop committing antisocial behaviour after intervention one rising to 93 per cent. after intervention three. Peoples' fear of antisocial behaviour has fallen since ASBOs were introduced.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Enforcement

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken in the last 12 months to monitor the work of local authorities in relation to their enforcement of anti-social behaviour orders. [222626]

Mr. Coaker: We collect data on the use of the tools and powers available to practitioners to tackle antisocial behaviour. Data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) made and breached are provided by the courts to the Home Office. The most recent data were published on 8 May 2008. We also receive data on the use of other tools and powers, such as antisocial behaviour contracts, through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) survey.

We also keep in touch with frontline practitioners through policy development discussion groups, and through regular training events. This helps ensure that practitioners are fully up to speed with the latest practice in using the wide range of ASB tools and powers available to them. This close relationship also means that we can draw upon front line experience and expertise in developing policy.

Anti-social Behaviour Orders: Warley

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for anti-social behaviour orders have been made to Warley magistrates in each of the last three years; how many have been granted; how many of those granted have been breached; and what penalties were imposed for each breach. [222520]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of ASBOs issued and breached is not compiled below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. Data at CJS level are collected centrally on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) made and breached, but not those unsuccessfully applied for.

Burglary

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will establish a target for police forces to investigate all reported house burglaries. [222467]

Mr. Coaker: We have no plans to set a target for police forces to investigate all reported house burglaries.

The Government are determined to ensure the police have the time and flexibility to respond to the concerns of local communities and have listened to the police service about the best way to achieve this. The Police Green Paper published in July—"From the Neighbourhood to the National, Policing Our Communities Together"—set out the Government's commitment to remove all targets that we set nationally for the police, and replace them with just one numerical top-down target for forces—on whether the public are confident that their force are tackling local problems. It is for local police forces, accountable to their police authorities, to determine their local priorities and the most appropriate way to tackle issues such as house burglary, including through the use of locally-set targets if appropriate.

Closed Circuit Television

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the use of CCTV to monitor members of the public. [222925]

Mr. Coaker: No guidance has been issued to local authorities on the use of closed circuit television (CCTV).

Use of CCTV by local authorities in public spaces must comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, which provides individuals with rights in respect of their information and sets rules about its collection and use.

The Information Commissioner's Office is the independent authority which administers the Act, and has recently produced a revised edition of its CCTV code of practice. This provides guidance on how to deploy CCTV while respecting the rights of individuals. Because of the wider privacy concerns raised by CCTV, the code advises organisations to consider the impact on individual privacy beforehand, what benefits can be gained, and whether better solutions exist.

The Home Office published the National CCTV Strategy last year, and a National CCTV Strategy Programme Board has been established. The programme board is reviewing the recommendations of the strategy and Ministers will have the opportunity to approve the work of the board later this year.

Credit Cards: Fraud

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of fraud relating to credit cards have been notified by banks and other financial institutions to the police in each police force area since April 2007. [222651]

Mr. Coaker: In 2007-08, there were 23,344 cases of fraud by false representation that involved a cheque, plastic card or online bank account recorded by police (this includes some instances of the similar offence of cheque and credit card fraud committed under old legislation in place before 15 January 2007).

These offences could have either been referred direct by a financial institution, reported by an account holder or merchant who was not refunded monies by their financial institution or dealt with as a direct call for service to the police where a suspect was believed to be committing a crime at the time. These offences will in some instances relate to online fraud, but there is no specific category of recorded crime to separately identify these. In addition, we do not separately identify fraud offences relating to credit cards that have been notified to police by banks or financial institutions.

Statistics giving the number of fraud offences relating to cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts recorded by each police force area since April 2007 are shown in the following table.

Fraud by false representation: cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts recorded by each police force in England and Wales from 2007-08

Force name	Number of fraud offences
Avon and Somerset	547
Bedfordshire	394
British Transport Police	315
Cambridgeshire	430
Cheshire	276
Cleveland	196
Cumbria	14
Derbyshire	361
Devon and Cornwall	603
Dorset	139
Durham	187
Dyfed-Powys	69
Essex	592
Gloucestershire	161
Greater Manchester	316
Gwent	107
Hampshire	824
Hertfordshire	448
Humberside	284
Kent	537
Lancashire	317
Leicestershire	512
Lincolnshire	145
London, City of	107
Merseyside	308
Metropolitan Police	7330
Norfolk	184
Northamptonshire	325
Northumbria	18
North Wales	104
North Yorkshire	220
Nottinghamshire	224
South Wales	513
South Yorkshire	373
Staffordshire	368
Suffolk	279
Surrey	739
Sussex	472
Thames Valley	945
Warwickshire	262
West Mercia	423
West Midlands	765
West Yorkshire	911
Wiltshire	709
England and Wales	23,344

Crime

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were reported in each police force area in each of the last 10 years; and what the detection rate in each police force area was in each such year. [223629]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The information requested is in the following tables.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police and detection rates, 1998-99 to 2001-02

	1998-99		1999-2000[1]		2000-01		2001-02	
Police force area	Number of offences	Detection rate (%)	Number of offences	Detection rate (%)	Number of offences	Detection rate (%)	Number of offences	Detection rate (%)
Avon and Somerset	150,089	24	147,104	22	149,254	21	177,196	14
Bedfordshire	49,076	33	53,607	25	49,627	27	52,210	25
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	67,256	29	68,722	25	64,343	24	69,559	22
Cheshire	65,119	37	64,528	31	63,288	30	70,990	26
Cleveland	67,030	23	65,185	22	64,357	21	72,003	20
Cumbria	40,202	44	37,729	39	32,873	34	37,229	32
Derbyshire	84,459	31	85,650	28	81,668	26	89,841	25
Devon and Cornwall	110,644	36	110,361	35	102,853	34	101,425	32
Dorset	52,755	31	52,332	26	50,320	25	54,869	27
Durham	50,413	33	48,796	32	44,702	34	51,478	33
Dyfed-Powys	24,588	69	23,739	65	22,878	63	23,969	64

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police and detection rates, 1998-99 to 2001-02

	1998-99		1999-2000[1]		2000-01		2001-02	
Police force area	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*
Essex	95,797	29	102,777	30	106,768	26	113,150	26
Gloucestershire	48,206	31	50,993	31	49,871	32	50,467	30
Greater Manchester	362,450	25	377,086	23	363,454	22	380,801	21
Gwent	58,738	55	60,132	53	56,728	57	46,916	55
Hampshire	128,253	35	135,174	32	133,553	29	135,961	29
Hertfordshire	49,309	34	52,741	27	64,215	24	67,237	24
Humberside	130,691	22	121,442	19	110,312	21	118,039	20
Kent	129,340	34	124,918	33	128,382	28	120,155	28
Lancashire	118,085	34	108,866	29	117,633	27	137,760	26
Leicestershire	93,397	34	94,577	30	86,422	28	88,557	28
Lincolnshire	46,670	40	46,170	28	44,884	25	49,792	27
London, City of	7,144	33	7,775	32	8,255	27	10,093	34
Merseyside	140,874	31	148,172	26	142,807	28	151,041	24
Metropolitan Police	934,254	22	1,052,049	16	994,233	15	1,056,513	14
Norfolk	57,129	37	59,387	30	57,259	26	58,923	25
Northamptonshire	65,466	33	61,240	33	56,731	33	60,458	31
Northumbria	151,298	30	142,279	31	134,777	31	139,130	31
North Wales	43,848	43	44,606	36	47,712	31	53,839	28
North Yorkshire	55,309	33	53,554	31	51,551	30	59,125	26
Nottinghamshire	135,255	25	136,875	21	139,903	20	159,462	18
South Wales	134,820	39	127,040	31	111,131	31	116,708	33
South Yorkshire	133,059	32	131,700	25	125,179	25	134,764	23
Staffordshire	91,919	32	98,852	22	104,705	23	117,027	20
Suffolk	39,908	41	43,355	36	44,317	35	50,492	33
Surrey	42,467	40	46,288	32	63,321	28	61,457	25
Sussex	130,402	25	136,566	25	136,920	23	135,110	25
Thames Valley	176,477	25	191,875	20	187,989	22	196,980	24
Warwickshire	38,485	26	38,593	22	36,963	22	42,211	25
West Mercia	81,782	34	84,797	29	78,363	28	102,257	28
West Midlands	314,628	30	364,887	27	364,879	28	372,257	29
West Yorkshire	273,809	27	260,237	25	258,908	23	298,845	19
Wiltshire	38,189	38	38,461	33	36,555	29	38,728	30
England and Wales	5,109,089	29	5,301,187	25	5,170,843	24	5,525,024	22

n/a = Not available

[1] New instructions which clarified the rules for detecting crime were introduced on 1 April 1999.

Notes:

1. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.
2. It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the overall detection rate have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police and detection rates, 2002-03 to 2007-08

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Police force area	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*
Avon and Somerset	173,866	15	164,943	15	161,210	17
Bedfordshire	60,895	26	62,382	23	57,973	28
British Transport Police	77,264	15	79,182	16	77,889	17
Cambridgeshire	85,029	22	79,960	23	73,659	23
Cheshire	84,574	26	92,223	27	89,300	26
Cleveland	73,816	23	74,579	21	68,967	24
Cumbria	37,595	31	39,539	32	43,300	30
Derbyshire	103,180	26	98,741	25	84,712	28
Devon and Cornwall	131,240	29	131,453	29	133,282	30
Dorset	62,297	25	62,657	26	57,722	28
Durham	51,177	34	48,432	29	47,115	29
Dyfed-Powys	25,104	68	31,105	47	32,409	43
Essex	136,181	27	144,512	28	134,789	27
Gloucestershire	55,775	29	58,097	28	53,333	27
Greater Manchester	379,126	22	367,959	22	324,616	23
Gwent	61,237	48	59,296	45	57,204	42
Hampshire	152,664	30	178,543	27	173,072	28
Hertfordshire	86,396	23	95,117	25	97,065	29

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police and detection rates, 2002-03 to 2007-08

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Police force area	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*
Humberside	132,529	20	141,644	19	124,105	20
Kent	130,597	28	137,313	25	136,440	23
Lancashire	130,507	27	151,834	27	152,043	30
Leicestershire	96,143	27	96,355	22	96,347	25
Lincolnshire	61,949	23	60,377	22	58,349	25
London, City of	10,026	36	9,250	33	8,685	36
Merseyside	163,166	25	169,181	27	170,846	30
Metropolitan Police	1,079,877	14	1,060,927	15	1,015,121	21
Norfolk	71,270	24	69,846	26	66,376	28
Northamptonshire	73,509	28	78,582	28	73,903	29
Northumbria	165,496	31	157,051	30	142,122	29
North Wales	65,067	29	61,749	33	53,849	42
North Yorkshire	67,239	26	71,473	28	61,615	35
Nottinghamshire	161,403	16	159,228	18	143,498	20
South Wales	143,372	29	137,113	29	124,162	29
South Yorkshire	152,057	21	141,794	24	140,371	26
Staffordshire	108,626	31	109,396	33	101,084	35
Suffolk	50,315	34	53,443	33	52,101	32
Surrey	68,452	22	73,252	22	70,851	26
Sussex	130,887	24	134,557	24	140,177	25
Thames Valley	208,523	25	210,256	23	205,273	26
Warwickshire	44,196	26	45,714	25	43,131	27
West Mercia	105,077	33	106,900	31	95,056	34
West Midlands	350,242	26	339,292	25	290,779	23
West Yorkshire	322,794	20	325,556	20	263,534	25
Wiltshire	44,225	28	42,956	28	40,076	29
England and Wales	5,974,960	24	6,013,759	23	5,637,511	26

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
Police force area	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (%)*
Avon and Somerset	154,876	23	160,834	24	144,970	25
Bedfordshire	59,493	25	57,289	22	51,327	22
British Transport Police	76,385	20	76,405	24	67,875	27
Cambridgeshire	66,804	27	69,146	25	65,308	27
Cheshire	95,297	27	89,023	27	79,278	26
Cleveland	71,962	30	68,452	31	66,646	33
Cumbria	42,722	35	38,640	36	35,282	38
Derbyshire	81,085	27	81,037	26	77,534	29
Devon and Cornwall	124,533	28	123,891	27	111,260	28
Dorset	58,724	30	55,142	30	51,285	27
Durham	53,123	27	53,173	30	47,839	29
Dyfed-Powys	30,185	45	30,124	45	25,639	42
Essex	132,378	31	127,163	33	119,164	32
Gloucestershire	53,062	32	52,388	33	45,685	32
Greater Manchester	328,237	25	332,554	25	297,966	25
Gwent	53,627	36	53,182	33	48,472	30
Hampshire	175,293	24	180,894	23	164,940	27
Hertfordshire	95,273	26	91,408	29	80,239	30
Humberside	116,104	23	112,771	25	97,034	31
Kent	147,112	26	146,402	26	131,269	27
Lancashire	142,229	32	135,837	35	123,681	35
Leicestershire	91,185	30	93,108	28	88,253	27
Lincolnshire	57,608	26	55,478	28	51,102	28
London, City of	8,432	43	7,973	39	7,572	36
Merseyside	174,989	28	155,208	29	126,934	32
Metropolitan Police	984,125	24	921,779	21	862,032	25
Norfolk	64,902	31	62,626	30	55,686	32
Northamptonshire	68,075	25	65,975	26	63,657	25
Northumbria	131,968	35	129,070	40	109,251	38
North Wales	50,270	43	53,450	48	45,545	40

Police force area	2005-06 Number of offences	2005-06 Detection rate (%)	2006-07 Number of offences	2006-07 Detection rate (%)	2007-08 Number of offences	2007-08 Detection rate (%)
North Yorkshire	58,850	35	54,526	33	50,265	33
Nottinghamshire	138,289	22	136,531	23	124,880	23
South Wales	123,942	26	121,717	25	123,967	26
South Yorkshire	162,845	27	159,477	26	145,769	27
Staffordshire	104,411	35	104,336	35	89,348	28
Suffolk	52,831	30	51,096	31	48,330	30
Surrey	68,978	25	74,242	30	68,947	27
Sussex	135,690	30	133,147	31	119,393	32
Thames Valley	201,412	28	211,325	25	196,008	25
Warwickshire	43,392	25	45,257	27	39,968	26
West Mercia	85,353	34	82,095	34	80,054	29
West Midlands	288,055	26	278,660	27	248,235	27
West Yorkshire	258,887	28	249,670	29	228,195	24
Wiltshire	42,181	32	45,098	26	44,587	27
England and Wales	5,555,174	27	5,427,559	27	4,950,671	28

Notes:
1. The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording standard In April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the overall detection rate have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to prevent crimes involving *(a)* internet fraud and *(b)* identity theft; and if she will make a statement. [224293]

Mr. Coaker: The Government maintain internet fraud prevention advice on a number of websites and also supports the GetSafeOnline website which is a joint Government and industry initiative which provides clear, accessible and up-to-date advice on the easy ways in which the public and small businesses can protect themselves and their PCs while using the internet.

The Government have recently allocated £29 million in new money to implement the findings of the cross Whitehall review of fraud. A new National Fraud Reporting Centre which will enable the police to draw together comprehensive fraud intelligence will also work with law enforcement to tackle fraud facilitated through the internet.

The Government are involved in a range of activity to help reduce identity theft and works with organisations in the public and private sector. We have sought to ensure better co-ordination in prosecuting fraudsters through establishing a network of Single Points of Contact in all police forces and a range of Government Departments and agencies dealing with identity fraud investigations and prosecutions.

We have also strengthened legislation. Offences in the Identity Cards Act 2006 target those who possess and use false identity documents and genuine documents belonging to someone else. More powers to share data to combat fraud were enacted in the Serious Crime Act 2007 and the Disclosure of Death Registration Information Scheme, under the Police and Justice Act 2006, was launched on 16 January 2008.

We have introduced systems to confirm the validity of UK passports presented to other organisations and interviews for first time passport applicants over 16 years old now take place to verify the identity of individuals.

A leaflet and the

www.identitytheft.org.uk

website help to increase public awareness of the problem. The material advises on how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of identity fraud, warning signs to look out for, and what someone should do if they do fall victim. Anyone who has had their personal details used fraudulently can contact one of the three credit reference agencies for help in resolving any credit related problems. They offer a free credit repair service and will liaise with each other, and the banks, to repair compromised personal credit records.

Finally, our plans for a National Identity Scheme will provide people with a highly secure means of protecting their identity and help citizens to prove their identities easily, quickly and with vastly improved security.

Crime: Prisoners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of offences recorded by the police in each of the last five years were crimes committed by prisoners whilst in custody. [224229]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Home Office collects 'recorded crime' data from the police in England and Wales. These data concentrate solely on the numbers of offences which are recorded and detected by the police.

Within this data-set no details are collected on the offender.

Crime: Young People

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of children under the age of 16 who were victims of crime in each year since 1997 were from single-parent households. [223752]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not currently available.

There are two primary sources of statistics on crime held by the Home Office. Police recorded crime is based on aggregate returns from police forces of the number of notifiable offences reported to and recorded by the police. Such returns do not contain information on the characteristics of victims or their families. The British crime survey is a sample survey of households in England and Wales and covers crimes experienced in the 12 months prior to interview. Currently, the survey is restricted to the experiences of adults aged 16 years and over. Following a recommendation of the independent Smith review of Home Office crime statistics, the survey is being extended to include those aged under 16 years from 2009.

Curfews: Young People

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the implications for the safety of young people in curfew areas where they may not be present in public in groups of more than two people. [222460]

Mr. Coaker: There are no plans to assess the safety of individual children in areas that are subject to authorisations made under section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (dispersal orders).

Domestic Violence: Emergency Calls

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces use recordings of 999 calls when interrogating those accused of domestic violence offences. [222406]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold information on the use of 999 recordings in police interviews with suspects in domestic violence cases.

However, in April this year revised guidance on investigating domestic abuse was reissued to all police forces by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the National Policing Improvement Agency. The guidance sets out the principles of interviewing suspects in domestic violence cases and also gives direction on the use of relevant questioning to prove offences.

Driving Offences: Insurance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the extent of insurance fraud arising from intentional motor vehicle accidents. [222650]

Mr. Coaker: I have made no assessment of the extent of insurance fraud arising from intentional motor vehicle accidents.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on enforcing the rules regarding driving while using a mobile telephone in each year since 1997. [222257]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally. Use of resources is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police. It became a specific offence to use a hand-held mobile phone while driving in December 2003.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for driving whilst using a mobile telephone in each year since 1997. [222258]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally. Information on court proceedings for the offence of using a hand-held mobile phone while driving and fixed penalties issued for the offence are contained in Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales, published annually, and in its supplementary tables. The information covers the period from December 2003, when this conduct became a specific offence.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for using a mobile telephone whilst driving. [223880]

Mr. Coaker: The latest available information from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice is for 2006 and is provided in the table. As the majority of 'use of hand held mobile phone while driving' offences are dealt with by the issue of a fixed penalty notice these are also included.

2007 data should be available later this year.

Fixed penalty notices issued[1] and total court proceedings for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[2] by police force area, England and Wales 2006

Number of offences

	Fixed penalty notices issued	*Total court proceedings[3]*	*Total dealt with*
England and Wales	164,910	2,682	167,592

[1] Paid, i.e. no further action.
[2] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110(3).
[3] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.
Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. 2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Homicide: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of 10 were victims of homicide in each of the last 10 years. [222647]

Mr. Coaker: Available data relate to homicides recorded by police in England and Wales between 1997-98 and 2006-07, and are shown in the table. Data for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Latest analysis of homicide statistics for England and Wales was published in 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2006-07' (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 03/08) which can be found online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0308.pdf

The next homicide chapter is scheduled for release in January 2009.

Homicides currently recorded[1] where victim aged under 10 years: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2006-07[2]

Year offence initially recorded[3]	*Number of homicides*
1997-98	61
1998-99	70
1999-2000	56
2000-01	81
2001-02	49
2002-03	73
2003-04	53
2004-05	48
2005-06	38
2006-07	49

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Data for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.
[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Offensive Weapons

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which programmes and organisations dealing with *(a)* gun and *(b)* knife crime her Department has funded in each of the last five years. [222766]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has provided funding for a range of organisations working on issues generally relating to violent crime, including CrimeStoppers and Crime Concern.

In addition, through the Connected Fund, we have provided small grants to local community organisations working on tackling gun and knife crime. Lists of the organisations funded in the six rounds of the fund held to date can be found at:

www.connected.gov.uk.

The Home Office has also provided funding for Be Safe, which provides educational workshops on weapons; the Disarm Trust, which worked to support community groups working on gun crime; Urban Concepts' 'Don't Trigger Campaign', focusing on raising awareness of gun crime; Mothers Against Guns, which supports families of gun crime victims; From Boyhood to Manhood, an organisation working with young black men who are at risk of being involved with violent crime; and Street Pastors, which works on the streets on Friday and Saturday nights to listen to young people and provide support.

Offensive Weapons: Dyfed

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knife crimes were recorded in Dyfed-Powys in each of the last five years. [221918]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to identify those offences that are knife-related from the data centrally collected on overall recorded crime. However, since April 2007, police forces have been providing separate aggregate data on serious violence (attempted murder, GBH and robbery) involving knives and sharp instruments. Dyfed-Powys police recorded 74 such offences during 2007-08.

Available data from the Homicide Index relate to offences currently recorded as homicide where the apparent method of killing was 'sharp instrument', as at 12 November 2007. The number of such offences recorded by Dyfed-Powys police each year between 2002-03 and 2006-07 are given in the following table. Figures for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2]: Dyfed-Powys police, 2002-03 to 2006-07[3,4]

Year offence initially recorded[3]	*Number*
2002-03	3
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	2
2006-07	1

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Homicides involving any sharp instrument, including knives.
[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[4] Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.

Offensive Weapons: Southampton

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* 16 and under, *(b)* between 17 and 18, *(c)* between 18 and 21 and *(d)* 21 years were arrested for carrying (i) knives and (ii) firearms in the City of Southampton in each of the last five years. [222993]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Offensive Weapons: Young People

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of children under the age of 16 who were victims of gun or knife crime in each year since 1997 were from single-parent households. [223753]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not currently available.

There are two primary sources of statistics on crime held by the Home Office. Police recorded crime is based on aggregate returns from police forces of the number of notifiable offences reported to and recorded by the police. Such returns do not contain information on the

characteristics of victims or their families. The British Crime Survey is a sample survey of households in England and Wales and covers crimes experienced in the 12 months prior to interview. Currently the survey is restricted to the experiences of adults aged 16 years and over. Following a recommendation of the independent Smith review of Home Office crime statistics, the survey is being extended to include those aged under 16 years from 2009.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by her Department has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [222046]

Mr. Coaker: Since May 1997, Parliament has passed 73 primary enactments and 208 statutory instruments containing reference to a power of entry in England and Wales, sponsored by a range of Departments, introducing new or amending existing powers of entry. The relevant legislation is placed in the House Library.

We are currently conducting a review of the powers of entry. The review is focused on establishing the continuing need for existing powers and determining the potential for a single statutory framework for all powers of entry. The review is also examining ways in which public understanding and awareness of entry powers can be raised.

A public consultation paper will be published later this year on the proposed framework approach and raising public accessibility. Details can be found on:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pacecodes/powers-of-entry-review

Reoffenders

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the number of those designated as persistent and prolific offenders are presently serving prison sentences. [224332]

Mr. Coaker: The most recent data available from the performance management arrangements for the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme cover the period from January to March 2008. Based on returns from 93 per cent. of all Prolific and other Priority Offender schemes in England and Wales, the data show that 38 per cent. of Prolific and other Priority Offenders were serving custodial sentences at that time.

Road Traffic Offences: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 608W, on road traffic offences: fixed penalties, if she will place in the Library a copy of the proposal from the Association of Chief Police Officers; and if she will make a statement. [222360]

Mr. Coaker: The proposal was contained in a paper submitted to the Fixed Penalty Procedures Working Group, which is chaired by the Home Office and brings together representatives from across Government and the criminal justice system who have an interest in fixed penalties. It is set out below. We are currently considering the launch of a consultation on the proposal, as would be required before any change could be made.

ACPO Proposal

Seatbelts

Security: Licensed Premises

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether requirements are imposed on door staff of licensed premises to undertake continuing training after they have obtained a Security Industry Authority licence. [222652]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has not to date specified competency requirements for second and subsequent licence applications after an individual has provided evidence of competency when applying for his or her first licence under the Private Security Industry Act 2001. However, the SIA anticipate proposing the introduction of a requirement for licence holders, including door supervisors, to provide evidence that they have kept their competency up to date when applying for licence renewal. Such a proposal would require an assessment of the costs and benefits involved.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to constrain illicit trade in tobacco; and what plans she has to review these measures. [224522]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Since the publication of the tackling tobacco smuggling strategy in 2000, over 15 billion illicit cigarettes and over 1,000 tonnes of hand rolling tobacco (HRT) have been seized. Many organised criminal gangs have been broken up and thousands of individuals have been successfully prosecuted. As a result of the success of the strategy, the size of the illicit market for cigarettes was reduced over the five years to 2005-06 from 21 per cent. to 13 per cent.

At Budget 2008, the Government announced that the new UK Border Agency, which has assumed responsibility for Customs detection work at the border, would be developing a strategy for enhancing detection of tobacco products.

Speed Limits: Cameras

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of bi-directional road safety and speed cameras in the Metropolitan Police district are coloured yellow on both sides. [222304]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally. Issues relating to the deployment of safety cameras in the Metropolitan Police district are operational matters for the Commissioner.

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Metropolitan Police plans to colour yellow the front of the bi-directional safety camera on the southbound carriageway of the A3 at Beverley Bridge by Robin Hood Gate, Richmond Park. [222305]

Mr. Coaker: This is an operational matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Young People: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* universal and *(b)* targeted funding her Department has provided to youth groups in London in each of the last five years. [222765]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has invested funds in a wide variety of universal and targeted services to develop positive activities to improve outcomes for young people, as well as targeted youth crime and antisocial behaviour prevention activities for young people most at risk.

The Home Office has provided funding in the last three years to 21 London-based Positive Futures projects. The total Home Office funding provided to this collection of projects was £2.5 million for 2006-07/08 and an additional £1,274,680 in this financial year.

Disaggregated information on funding specifically to London-based Positive Futures projects in 2005-06 and 2004-05 is not available.

In addition, in May 2004, the Home Office launched the Connected Fund, which has to date held six funding rounds of small grants for local community organisations working to tackle gun and knife crime. Details of the projects funded can be found on the website:

www.connected.gov.uk

Total funding under this funding stream to date is £1.75 million and approximately half of which went to London based organisations.

Also across Government the Department for Children Schools and Families fund a wide range of universal and targeted youth groups.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: EU Strategic Partnership

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1165-6W, on Africa: EU Strategic Partnership, what criteria his Department is using to monitor progress under the strategy against the Millennium Development Goals. [223690]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Africa EU Joint Strategic Partnership and action plan were agreed by EU and AU member states at the Lisbon summit in December 2007. The action plan consists of eight Partnerships which contain 22 priority actions with agreed activities under each. On the European side, EU member states have taken a lead on the different partnerships. This role will include monitoring implementation of the agreed priority actions, in consultation with African partners.

The EU Africa MDG Partnership includes four priority actions, with a set of agreed activities listed under each. The UK Government are currently mapping ongoing and planned work on these activities and identifying gaps, in consultation with European and African partners. Once this mapping is completed, the principal criteria for assessing progress will be (a) delivery of planned or ongoing activities; (b) action to address gaps; and (c) whether a wide range of stakeholders, such as civil society organisations, are able to contribute their views and ideas.

Africa: Females

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1167-8W, on Africa: females, what programmes his Department is supporting which promote the rights and political participation of women in Africa in 2008-09. [223684]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a number of innovative and successful programmes in African countries that address women's rights and political participation.

DFID supports Kenya's Political Empowerment Programme which provided support to women candidates contesting parliamentary and civic seats in the December national elections. There are now more women in both parliament and local councils: the number of elected women in Parliament increased from nine in the last Parliament to 15 currently in 2008.

In Nigeria we are working with other donors and Nigerian civil society organisations, and DFID funded programmes have provided detailed analysis on the impact of the African Protocol on the Rights of Women and the adoption of the convention to eliminate discrimination against women (CEDAW). This will facilitate Nigerian civil society organisations to develop advocacy strategies aimed at passing legislation that better protects women's rights. In Sierra Leone DFID has committed long-term funding (2006-10) to support Women's Access to Justice. This programme has supported the introduction of Circuit Courts to reach remote areas, improving women's access to justice.

Further Information is available on the DFID website using the links provided in the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1167-8W.

Developing Countries: Borders

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1176-7W, on developing countries: borders, what information his Department has received from USAID on the steps it is taking to strengthen the Trans Kalahari and Maputo development corridors in 2008-09. [223681]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) receives monthly updates from the USAID Trade Hub based in Gaborone, Botswana.

USAID recently reported the endorsement given by Botswana's Ministry of Works and Transport for harmonising axle load limits for trucks moving along the Trans Kalahari Corridor. This measure should facilitate trade along the corridor.

USAID is also supporting the work of the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI) for improving transport logistics along the Maputo Development Corridor. Some of the recent progress reported by USAID on their work with the MCLI include:

Co-funding the MCLI annual general meeting in May 2008.

Co-funding the MCLI open day in October 2008.

Providing technical assistance to the MCLI as well as other Maputo Corridor stakeholders (for example, in relation to Customs issues, one stop border post issues, transport costs, trade facilitation, etc).

Producing a Study on Sustainable Funding of Corridor Management Institutions which has led to funding being pledged to the MCLI.

Studies on Corridor Performance and Truck Stops to be produced in the next few months.

Further information on the USAID Trade Hub can be accessed at:

www.satradehub.org.

Developing Countries: Education

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what percentage of its budget his Department spent on education programmes in schools in 2007-08; and what assessment he has made of the performance of such programmes against their objectives. [220455]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2007-08, the Department for International Development (DFID) spent some £351 million bilaterally on education which represented 12 per cent. of DFID's total bilateral programme. These figures include an allocated proportion of General Budget Support and funding to the Education for All fast track initiative. It does not include support to education through multilateral institutions and non-governmental organisations funded through DFID's Partnership Programme Agreements. The UK is committed to increasing its total spending on education globally to £1 billion by 2010.

Global enrolment in primary education increased from 647 million in 1999 to 688 million in 2005 but latest estimates show that some 75 million primary aged children are still not enrolled in school, so a significant challenge remains. That is why, last year the Prime Minister and United Nations' Secretary General called for accelerated action to achieve the millennium development goals, including for education.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1178W, on Ethiopa: economic situation, what steps his Department is taking to help the Ethiopian government to promote human development in 2008-09. [223693]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Despite the present economic and humanitarian situation, this year's national budget for Ethiopia (passed in July) commits the Ethiopian Government to further increases in the levels of social spending to promote the expansion of basic services and improve human development.

Through a number of sector programmes, the Department for International Development supports this government priority through improving the availability and quality of health, education and water and sanitation services, particularly in poorly served rural areas in Ethiopia.

During 2008-09, we will be spending approximately £38.5 million on education services, £20.5 million on health services, and £10.5 million on water services. These resources will make a significant contribution to increasing the numbers of schools and teachers, health clinics and health workers, water points and latrines in rural areas.

Ethiopia: Water

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what bodies received funding from the £75 million allocated to support the Ethiopian government water sanitation and hygiene programme. [224142]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) water and sanitation programme in Ethiopia is administered through a World Bank trust fund. Project funds are channelled through the Government of Ethiopia's federal Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and spent by local government at regional and district levels. These funds are spent directly to provide water and sanitation services at community level. In 2008, £9 million has so far been provided to build around 1,000 rural water schemes (such as protected springs and hand dug wells) and eight small town schemes (piped water systems), benefiting approximately 500,000 people. Overall, DFID's £75 million will pay for water and sanitation for 3.2 million people.

India: Education

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1040W, on India: overseas aid, what targets have been set for the universal elementary education programme in India. [223857]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Indian Government's flagship Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, described in the answer of 18 June 2008, sets a number of targets for universal elementary education. These targets, for achievement by 2009-10, include reducing the number of out of school children aged six to 14 years from 13.4 million (2005-06) to 4.9 million; ensuring that girls' share of enrolments and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe shares of enrolments are maintained or increased relative to their share in the population as a whole; increasing student attendance rates at the primary and upper primary levels from 70 per cent. and 75 per cent. respectively to 85 per cent. and 90 per cent.; increasing the retention rate at the primary level from 71 per cent. to 75 per cent.; increasing the transition rate from primary to upper primary levels from 83 per cent. to 89 per cent.; adequately and regularly monitoring learning levels of elementary education students; and improving learning levels of students in grade 3 in particular.

India: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1039-40W, on India: overseas aid, what form the technical assistance provided by his Department to the Andhra Pradesh government took; and whether steps are being taken by his Department to support the provision of long-term education as part of the rural livelihoods programme. [223855]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Pursuant to the response of 18 June 2008, the technical assistance provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) to the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken the form of advisory inputs by national and international consultants on: livelihood enhancement, human resource management, water audits, gender, evaluation and impact assessment. Technical assistance was also used to recommend improvements in the ways government departments operate and train officials to discharge their duties more effectively.

There was no formal education component in the Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods project, although there was a strong emphasis on capacity building of community members, particularly women to develop new skills, in areas related to livelihoods and income generating activities. The project ended in December 2007.

Nepal: Health Services

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 494W, on International Health Partnership, in what way the International Health Partnership gave momentum to the new policy on free health care in Nepal; and what resources his Department is providing to improve the overall quality of health care in Nepal in 2008-09. [223861]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The International Health Partnership's (IHP) goal is to accelerate progress on the health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through improvements to health systems as well as more effective use of aid. The Government of Nepal (GoN) joined the IHP while the GoN's Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) were designing how to scale up the free health care policy: a policy designed to improve access by the poor to services. The IHP launch event provided the Minister of Health and Population with valuable global evidence to inform policy-making and expansion of delivery. The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided technical support to the policy both preceding the launch of the IHP and subsequently. DFID provided an additional £3 million for fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09 in recognition of the IHP and supporting the free health care policy.

For 2008-09 DFID is providing £20.5 million to the health sector. This funds three programmes: the overall health programme (called the Nepal Health Sector Programme), Support to the Safe Motherhood programme and the HIV/AIDS programme. Most of the fund is provided as budget support to be managed by, and through, the government's system.

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's timetable is for its implementation plan to take forward the OECD Development Assistance Committee Principles; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of fulfiling its commitments under the plan; and how much it will cost to fulfil the plan. [220386]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK attaches great importance to the work of the OECD Development Assistance Committee in developing best practice guidance for donors whether in the form of principles, guidelines or policy statements. Where appropriate we will continue to work with others to ensure such guidance is associated with clear commitments and targets for its implementation.

For example, the Paris principles (partner country ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability) provide an organising framework for the commitments set out in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The international community agreed 12 targets to monitor the implementation of these commitments, and most recently reviewed progress in doing so at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Accra on 2-4 September. The Accra Agenda for Action, which resulted from that meeting, represents an important further means to accelerate progress towards the Paris Declaration targets set for 2010.

UK delivery of the Paris Declaration commitments and targets now forms part of the Department for International Development's (DFID) Departmental Strategic Objectives rather than of a separate action plan. There are therefore no costs associated with fulfilling a separate plan. Our progress in meeting our Paris Declaration commitments and targets is subject to DFID's normal management and reporting mechanisms.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department has initiated to increase opportunities for individuals in the UK to assist developing countries in the last three years. [220454]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has initiated two programmes to increase opportunities for individuals in the UK to assist developing countries in the last three years.

In February 2008, DFID launched a youth volunteering programme, called Platform2. This aims both to increase awareness of development issues among young people in the UK (with a focus on less advantaged youth), and to enable young people to contribute meaningfully to community led overseas development projects. The programme aims to involve a minimum of 2,500 young people over three years. Since the launch, 170 UK volunteers have completed (or are currently participating) in the programme in Ghana, South Africa, Peru, India, Malawi and Nepal.

In July 2008 DFID launched the Diaspora Volunteering scheme to fund volunteers from UK Diaspora communities to use their skills and experience to help development in poor countries. It aims to send at least 600 volunteers to developing countries over three years. The first volunteers have started working in India, Nepal and Cameroon.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1182W, on overseas aid, to what other programmes funds not disbursed to partner governments were allocated. [223678]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A final breakdown of Department for International Development (DFID) expenditure for 2007-08 was published on 2 October 2008 in the publication "Statistics on International Development 2007-08". This publication is available on the DFID website

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Overseas Aid: Standards

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1271-2W, on overseas aid: standards, how the transparency of donors' actions will be measured as part of the harmonisation principle. [223674]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The OECD's Development Assistance Committee measures donors' commitments on harmonisation in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness through achievement of three targets: 66 per cent. of aid flows through programme based approaches, 40 per cent. of missions to the field conducted jointly with other donors, and 66 per cent. of analytical work conducted jointly.

At the Third High Level Forum (HLF3) on Aid Effectiveness held in Ghana from 2-4 September, the UK played a key role in getting international agreement to speed up implementation of the Paris Declaration. The Accra Agenda for Action commits donors to

"publicly disclose regular, detailed and timely information on volume, allocation and, when available, results of development expenditure to enable more accurate budget, accounting and audit by developing countries".

The implementation of this commitment will be monitored by the OECD-DAC and reviewed at the next High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011.

Also at the HLF, 14 donors, including UNDP, World Bank, EC, Germany and the Netherlands, signed up to a new UK-led 'International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)'. This will enable donors to implement and go beyond the commitment made in the Accra Agenda for Action and ensure that information on aid flows is available to everyone. Donors will work together to agree before the end of 2009 an accessible common format for the publication of information about aid. The initiative will help citizens hold donors and governments to account for their promises and enable partner governments and their citizens—those who ultimately benefit from aid—to plan for and make the best use of aid.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1272-3W, on overseas aid: standards, what steps donors and partners are taking to achieve the priorities for improvement referred to in the answer in order to meet 2010 targets. [223677]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: At the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Accra, Ghana from 2-4 September 2008, strong UK leadership helped to secure an ambitious 'Accra Agenda for Action' which will speed up implementation of the Paris Declaration.

Donors and developing countries commitments include:

A step change in donors' use of partner government systems to deliver aid, with a new target to channel 50 per cent. of government-to-government aid through country systems, thus improving alignment;

Strengthening of national, and for the first time international, mutual accountability mechanisms, allowing donors and partner countries to better hold each other accountable for meeting their commitments, with a milestone agreed for 2009;

Donors agreed to respect and support partner country-led efforts to agree a better division of labour between donors at country level—and for the first time at international level too; we agreed to start dialogue on international division of labour by June 2009. This will reduce transaction costs for partner countries and help address the issue of under-aided countries;

For the first time and beginning now, donors will provide partner governments with forward expenditure or implementation plans for the following three to five years, allowing partner countries to integrate the information in their medium-term planning and macroeconomic frameworks. This will help developing countries plan to use aid to implement their own priorities, e.g. recruiting nurses and teachers; and

Partner countries will improve their information systems, with support from donors to develop national statistical capacity. The UK announced £50 million support for a new multi-donor Statistics for Results Facility. Donors will use these systems to manage development results.

These steps will help achieve the targets set for 2010.

Renewable Energy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Carbon Trust; and how much expenditure has been set aside for the introduction and operation of renewable technologies in his Department's UK offices. [224145]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has had various discussions with the Carbon Trust, and through them have commissioned building surveys of both our UK offices, at 1 Palace Street in London, and Abercrombie House in East Kilbride. While these surveys found that the buildings were inherently energy efficient, they also identified technologies which merited further investigation. Further work has been carried out through the Carbon Trust to assess the feasibility of these, such as a wind turbine and a Biomass boiler at Abercrombie House, and a Tri-generation plant at 1 Palace Street.

Earlier this year DFID invested in voltage modulation equipment which has reduced the electricity consumption at 1 Palace Street by around 15 per cent.. The level of capital funding for the next 3½ years is still being considered.

Sierra Leone: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the administrative cost to his Department was for delivery of £30 million to the UN Peacebuilding Fund in Sierra Leone; what programmes have been funded through the fund; and what other steps his Department is taking to support the UN in Sierra Leone. [220385]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: No administrative support is provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) to the UN Peace building Fund (PBF) in Sierra Leone. DFID is a member of the PBF Steering Committee in Sierra Leone; its remit includes assessment and approval of proposals and oversight of implementation.

The Peacebuilding Fund was set up in March 2007 with an envelope of $35 million. UNDP administers the fund from New York and provides the local secretariat.

To date, seven projects have been formally approved for funding—full details of these can be viewed on UNDP's website:

http://www.unpbf.org/sierraleone-projects.shtml

DFID works closely with a number of UN agencies in Sierra Leone. This includes direct funding for project implementation—for example to UNICEF for a national Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme, as well as contribution to basket funds—for example to a fund managed by UNDP to support the delivery of the 2007 national and 2008 local elections.

Southern Africa: Infrastructure

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1177-8W, how the US$5 billion of private investment will be distributed. [223689]

Mr. Thomas: The more than US$ 5 billion private sector investment which has been mobilised in relation to the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF) is helping to improve telecommunications, energy, transport, industrial and other infrastructure in African countries such as Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda. A detailed breakdown of the US$ 5.5 billion private sector investments together with EAIF finance is given in the attached table (Annex 1).

Annex 1: EAIF Active and Completed projects as of June 2008

Project	*EAIF*	*Year*	*Country*	*Sector*	*Comments*	*($ million) PSI Committed (3m)*
Celtel (MSI Expansion)	30.00	2003	Sub-Saharan Africa	Telecoms	Total US$190m syndicated loan fully disbursed. Now repaid on refinancing.	160.0
MTN Nigeria	10.00	2003	Nigeria	Telecoms	US $5m drawn. Now repaid on refinancing	200.0
AES-Sonel	35.50	2003 (EAIF $32.3m) 2006 (EAIF $2.3m)	Cameroon	Energy/Power	EAIF loan disbursed - $32.3m in 2003, $2.3m in 2006. GPOBA approved eligibility commitment awaited	554.0
Moma Mineral Sands	36.50	2003 ($24.5m) 2007 ($12m)	Mozambique	Mining	Disbursing	477.0
BidCo Palm Oil/KIS Renewables	22.00	2004	Uganda	Agribusiness	Approved Nov 2006. Loan not yet signed	
Tema Port Mooring Buoy	12.00	2005	Ghana	Transport	US$ 30m facility. US$ 9.4m Drawn	58.0
Obajana Cement Plant	30.00	2005	Nigeria	Industrial	Disbursed as part of US$ 500m syndicated loan	929.0
ElemePetrochem	20.00	2007	Nigeria	Industrial	EAIF loan disbursed Feb 2007	400.0
Ethiopian Airlines	36.00	2006	Ethiopia	Transport	Approved by the Board. Awaiting disbursement	474.0
CelTel Nigeria	35.00	2007	Nigeria	Telecoms	Disbursed Feb 2007	1,327.0
Celtel Africa	24.00		Africa Regional	Telecoms	Commenced disbursing Sept 2007	590.0
DRC	(8.0)		DRC	Telecoms		
Malawi	(1.0)		Malawi	Telecoms		
Madagascar	(2.0)		Madagascar	Telecoms		
Sierra Leone	(9.0)		Sierra Leone	Telecoms		
Uganda	(4.0)		Uganda	Telecoms		
Mnazi Bay Power (Mtwara Power)	17.50	2007	Tanzania	Energy/Power	Approved April 200. Not yet signed	
MagEnergy	12.00	2007 (TAF EAIF)	DRC	Energy/Power	Loan Approved	48.7
Seacom	35.00	2007	Africa Regional	Telecoms	Signed Dec 2007	385.0
Safal Africa	29.00	2007	Africa Regional	Industrial	Signed March 2008	(not yet available)
Bugoye Hydro Power Plant	35.00	2008	Uganda	Energy/Power	Loan Approved	55.7
Total	419.50					5,558.40

Zambia: Education

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1274-5W, on Zambia: education, how the £22.1 million that his Department contributed to the multi-donor education fund was distributed. [223675]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The multi-donor education fund to which the UK Government contributed under the 2003-07 Ministry of Education Strategic Plan was

distributed across three sub sectors: free basic education, high school education, teacher and tertiary education. As illustrated in the following table, the majority of donor pooled resources were allocated to basic education.

	2005	2006	2007	Percentage 2008
Basic education	58	62	52	59
High school	24	15	40	24
Tertiary	11	13	3	12
Administration and support	7	10	5	5
Total	100	100	100	100

This support has resulted in the net enrolment ratio at primary school level increasing from 78 in 2002 to 97 in 2006; and from 9.4 in 2002 to 22.17 in 2006 for grades 10-12 as well as the number of orphans enrolled increasing three-fold from 12,967 in 2002 to 38,262 in 2005.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1274-5W, on Zambia: education, what programmes are planned to extend the provision of free education in Zambia between 2008 and 2011. [223676]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Zambian Fifth National Development Plan 2006-10 outlines the priorities to ensure equitable access to education in Zambia. This includes expansion of infrastructure including classrooms and teachers' houses; teacher education; and curriculum development. Specific discussions between government and development partners to extend free primary education from Grades 1-7 to Grades 8-12 are currently underway. In addition a key priority is to respond effectively to the increased demand for education services following the abolition of charges for Grades 1-7 and improve the quality of education delivered, including infrastructure and teaching staff.

The Department for International Development (DFID) provides financing to the Government of Zambia's budget to support attainment of the goals outlined in the national plan.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in issuing guidance to local authorities on producing revised expressions of interest for Building for the Future waves 7 to 15; and which of the factors raised in the consultation which closed on 4 July were taken into account in drafting the guidance. [224488]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The guidance was issued on 19 September. It reflected the responses to the consultation. This means that those involved in these later waves of Building Schools for the Future will benefit from the experience of those involved in the earlier waves, such as local authorities, schools, diocesan bodies and private sector bodies engaged in construction finance and design. In line with Government guidelines, we have now issued a summary of the consultation responses.

We received 145 responses, of which 67 were from local authorities (46 per cent.), 21 from schools, 16 from representative organisations, five from diocesan bodies, nine from the private sector in construction finance and design, and 27 other—which include further private sector consultants. 55 (38 per cent.) of the responses were from bodies involved in waves 1 to 6 of Building Schools for the Future, and 90 not.

The guidance issued in the light of the responses asks for responses by 30 November 2008. When the Department has received the responses, we will prioritise projects in the way that the guidance specifies. We aim to announce the new national programme in early 2009, which will provide authorities with an indication on when they can expect to join the programme.

Departmental Homeworking

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 405W, on departmental homeworking, if he will make it his policy to collate and maintain central records of homeworking by his Department's staff. [222472]

Beverley Hughes: We have no plans to keep a central record of those staff who agree with their line manager to work occasionally from home, for example, to write a report. There is no requirement to keep a central record.

We have, however, recently moved from 'dial-in' access for homeworkers to broadband access only by authorised users with encrypted fobs. We have kept a central record of those authorised users with security fobs—which currently stands at 1,631 staff (or 60.3 per cent. of staff).

GCE A-level

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of A grade A-levels in *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* physics, *(c)* mathematics and *(d)* modern languages were awarded to pupils at (i) grammar schools, (ii) comprehensive schools, (iii) sixth form colleges and (iv) independent schools in the most recent year for which figures are available. [224527]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr. Gibb) on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1854-56W.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1854-6W, on examination results, what percentage of students who gained a GCSE in *(a)* French, *(b)* German and *(c)* Spanish at each grade were educated in the (i) mainstream maintained sector and (ii) the independent sector in each year since 1997; [224476]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1854-6W, on examination results, what percentage of students who gained a GCSE in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* biology or human biology were educated in (i) the mainstream maintained sector and (ii) the independent sector in each year since 2005, broken down by grade. [224477]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The answer to which the question refers gives figures broken down by A*-C and A*-G grades. Further breakdowns can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many maintained mainstream schools over 75 per cent. of pupils obtained fewer than five GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A to C in the last year for which figures are available. [224519]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer to PQ 180463, 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 162W.

The latest year for which figures are available is 2006/07. Provisional figures for 2007/08 will be available in mid-October.

Languages: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) at how many comprehensive schools 50 per cent. or more pupils achieved a modern languages GCSE at A*-C in each year since 1997; [224479]

(2) what percentage of pupils in the maintained mainstream sector achieved five GCSEs including a modern language at A* to C grades in each year since 1997. [224500]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to refund pre-paid Air Passenger Duty to passengers who had booked tickets with airlines which ceased trading prior to the date of the flight. [224528]

Mr. Timms: Where an airline ceases to trade and there is no carriage of passengers, no liability to APD arises, and consequently no tax is received by HMRC.

It is therefore for the airline to decide whether or not it refunds this charge.

Child Benefit: Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average waiting time was for telephone callers attempting to contact child benefit services in the last period for which figures are available. [224466]

Mr. Timms: In 2007-08 customers calling the Child Benefit Helpline waited, on average, one minute 21 seconds before their call was answered by an adviser.

Council Tax: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 305W, on council tax: Wales, how many dwellings in Wales are marked with a property details activity code of *(a)* 30, *(b)* 60 and *(c)* 70 according to the Valuation Office Agency's records. [218245]

Mr. Timms: The number of dwellings in Wales marked with property details activity code 30, 60 or 70 is as follows.

Data held at 2 April 2008	
Code 30	6,632
Code 60	7,946
Code 70	22,459

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223046]

Mr. Timms: There were fewer than five cases of serious disciplinary breaches over the last 12 months. These were dealt with under the Department's disciplinary procedures and appropriate action taken.

Departmental Security

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies in the last 24 months. [222226]

Mr. Timms: In the last 24 months the following departmental identity cards or passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in:

	Number
(a) HM Treasury	136
(b) HM Treasury's executive agencies	
DMO	3
OGC	[1]49
OGC Buying Solutions	[1]13

[1] OGC and OGC Buying Solutions figures include data for all their offices since January 2007. Earlier figures are not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the postponement of the two pence increase in fuel duty on revenue accruing to the Exchequer in each of the next 12 months. [222316]

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on Government revenue of delaying the two pence rise in fuel duty to spring 2009. [222935]

Mr. Timms: The impact of a six-month postponement of fuel duty increases on Government revenue is shown in Budget 2008, page 110, table A1.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has he made of the effect on Exchequer receipts in each financial year of the entry into force of clause 144 of the Finance Bill, on rebates to vehicle excise duty. [222789]

Mr. Timms: The public finance assumption is that the clause will have a negligible effect on receipts.

Housing: Sales

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residential property transactions there have been, according to HM Revenue and Customs records, by number and value, in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* the United Kingdom in each month in 2008. [224087]

Mr. Timms: Figures for the number of residential property transactions with a value of £40,000 or above by month are published on the HMRC website as National Statistics:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/val-40000-or-above.pdf

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 988W, on housing: valuation, if he will place in the Library *(a)* a hard copy and *(b)* electronic copies of the maps and boundaries of each locality. [223087]

Mr. Timms: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the Valuation Office Agency will adopt a principle of data minimisation in the information it collects and holds on domestic dwellings. [223961]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency only collects information on domestic dwellings that is necessary for it to undertake its work in relation to property valuation.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many prosecutions have been brought against employers for breach of national minimum wage legislation in the last 12 months; and how many of those cases related to employers in *(a)* Wakefield district and *(b)* Hemsworth constituency. [221753]

Mr. Timms: Since 1 August 2007, there have been five successful prosecutions for minimum wage offences. HMRC does not maintain statistics at district or constituency level.

Minimum Wage: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fines have been issued to employers for paying employees at rates below the national minimum wage in *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire. [222292]

Mr. Timms: HMRC does not hold statistics based on town or county locations.

Minimum Wage: West Yorkshire

Colin Burgon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps HM Revenue and Customs has taken to ensure effective enforcement of the minimum wage in *(a)* West Yorkshire and *(b)* Leeds. [222758]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not record activity by reference to the areas specified in the question.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an impact assessment has been produced in relation to the Valuation Office Agency's decision to *(a)* increase business rates on port and shipping companies and *(b)* backdate the higher rateable values. [224525]

Mr. Timms: The regulatory changes in relation to ports introduced from 1 April 2005 concerned the valuation basis on which the statutory designated port operators' occupations are assessed (moving from a "formula" to a "conventional" basis). They did not change the law regarding what should or should not be separately assessed, under which the present action is being taken.

Valuation officers have no discretion over the effective date from which alterations in assessment take place, which is prescribed by separate regulation of general application. The valuation officers are simply discharging their normal functions, so no impact assessment has been undertaken by or on behalf of HM Treasury.

Northern Rock: Nationalisation

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse of nationalising Northern Rock has been to date. [221719]

Mr. Timms: Financial information related to Northern Rock is given in the HM Treasury's resource accounts 2007-08, published on 16 July 2008. This is available at the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/4/B/annualreportandaccounts200708050808.pdf

Pensions: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions accrued by *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers in Government; and if he will make a statement. [224257]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Under the Model Contract for Special Advisers, special advisers appointed from October 2002 are entitled to the same pension choices as civil servants. Civil servants, including departmental press officers, have the choice of joining the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) or opting for a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. Copies of the Model Contract and the rules of the PCSPS are available in the Libraries of the House.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what powers of entry are exercisable by representatives of *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs under (i) primary and (ii) secondary legislation. [222696]

Mr. Timms: Powers exercisable by *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency are contained in primary legislation. For council tax these are contained in section 26 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. They do not extend to forcible entry. For other functions of the Valuation Office Agency I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 6 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1037W.

Powers exercisable by *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs (of which VOA is an agency) are contained in primary and secondary legislation. HMRC has a wide range of responsibilities across a number of functions ranging from administration of tax and duties, enforcement of prohibitions and restrictions through to criminal offences. Within HMRC powers of entry are only used within the limits of a particular function and when it is proportionate and reasonable to do so. The main powers exercisable by HMRC (other than those listed elsewhere as exercisable by the VOA) are shown in the following table.

The Home Office is leading a review of powers of entry across all Government Departments and in which HMRC is engaged. The latest findings can be found at

www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/powers-of-entry-review/.

List of the main powers of entry exercisable by HMRC (other than those listed elsewhere as exercisable by the VOA)

Statute	*Reference*
Alcohol Liquor Duties Act 1979	Section 79
Betting and Gaming Duties Act 1981	Schedule 1
Customs and Excise Management Act 1979	Part III—sections 20(A); 25A and 33;
	Part VIIIA—section 100F;
	Part IX—sections 112 and 113;
	Part IXA—section 118C;
	Part XII—sections 161; 161A and 162.
Finance Act 1994	Part 1—section 24; schedule 7, paragraph 4
Finance Act 1996	Schedule 5, paragraph 4
Finance Act 2000 Part XII	Schedule 6, paragraph 129
Finance Act 2001	Schedule 7, paragraph 6
Finance Act 2008	Schedule 36, paragraph 10
Inheritance Act 1984	Part VIII—section 20
Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984	Part II—sections 8; 7; 18 and 32—schedule 1 and section 9
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002	Part II—section 51
Stamp Act 1981	Part 1 Regulations—section 16
Taxes Management Act 1970	Sections 61; 110 and 111
Value Added Tax Act 1994	Schedule 58 and schedule 11 paragraph 10
Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979	Regulations made under section 17
Hydrocarbon Oil Regulations 1973 (from Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979)	Regulation 47
Hydrocarbon Oil Duties (Reliefs for Electricity Generation) Regulations 2005	Regulations 10 and 13

Private Finance Initiative

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of which private finance initiative projects the obligations on either party have not been met, leading to *(a)* contract renegotiation and *(b)* contract failure followed by project reversion to public control. [224456]

Yvette Cooper: In all cases but one, the National Physical Laboratory, the failure of either party to meet its obligations under the private finance initiative has led to contract re-registration or reversion to public ownership.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the capital liabilities in respect of private finance initiative contracts were in each year since 1990-91, broken down by Department. [224471]

Yvette Cooper: The full list of all signed PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the constituency and the procuring authority.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the public sector pension deficit is if calculated using a discount rate based on index-linked gilts; and what rate was used for the most recent calculation of the deficit. [224505]

Yvette Cooper: As page 38 of the Long Term Public Finance Report published on 12 March 2008 explains, the key actuarial assumptions used to value the liabilities of individual schemes, such as discount rates, are set out in the relevant reports by the scheme actuary as reported in individual scheme resource accounts. Applying different discount rates would produce different estimates of the total liability but this would not affect the size of future actual cash payments to pensioners. Further information on the liabilities for individual pension schemes is available in the individual scheme resource accounts.

Revenue and Customs

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost of employing each member of staff in the compliance department of HM Revenue and Customs was in the last financial year. [222615]

Mr. Timms: The latest available cost figures are for 2006-07. In this year the average cost per member of compliance staff[1] was £37,600.

[1] Included are Local Compliance, National Teams and Special Civil Investigations, Stamps Tax, Charity Assets and Residence and Large Business Service.

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average yield produced by each member of staff in the compliance department at HM Revenue and Customs was in the last financial year. [222616]

Mr. Timms: The latest available yield figures are for 2006-07. In this year the average yield per member of compliance staff[1] was around £680,000.

[1] Included are Local Compliance, National Teams and Special Civil Investigations, Stamps Tax, Charity Assets and Residence and Large Business Service.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax payers resident in Scotland are attached to Inland Revenue Centre 1, Glasgow; [224308]

(2) how many tax payers resident outside Scotland are attached to Inland Revenue centres outside of Scotland; [224309]

Mr. Timms: Information on taxpayer numbers is available on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income tax/menu.htm

The total number of taxpayers is shown in Table 2.1: 'Number of individual income taxpayers'. Estimates of the number of taxpayers resident in Scotland can be found in Table 2:2 'Number of individual income taxpayers by country and region'.

Revenue and Customs: Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on works of art in each HM Revenue and Customs office in the last 12 months. [223974]

Mr. Timms: Nothing, according to HMRC's records.

Revenue and Customs: Buildings

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had on *(a)* the future of the Mapeley STEPS Ltd estate and *(b)* the reorganisation of HM Revenue and Customs offices. [221859]

Mr. Timms: The Minister responsible for HM Revenue and Customs has frequent discussions on these issues, and many other departmental issues and keeps the Chancellor of the Exchequer informed on a regular basis.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the number of letters received by each HM Revenue and Customs office where processing has not yet been concluded. [224258]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has received over 25 million items of post (letters and forms) from customers in the last 12 months.

As at end of August 2008, HMRC estimates that there were approximately 1.2 million items of post due to be processed, which represents approximately two weeks worth of post received.

This is within HMRC's normal expectation for this time of year and reflects the fact that volumes of work outstanding are affected by seasonal demands.

This information is not held by individual HMRC offices.

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what financial savings he expects to accrue from the closure of the HM Revenue and Customs offices in *(a)* Hawick and *(b)* Galashiels, broken down by (i) financial year and (ii) each category of expense representing five per cent. or more of the total savings in each year. [222818]

Mr. Timms: No final decision has been taken to close the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices at Hawick and Galashiels. HMRC announced proposals for the possible closure of both offices on 11 June 2008 and, as part of their normal commitment to consultation with stakeholders including staff and customers, have invited feedback. I expect to take decisions on these and other proposals based on HMRC's recommendations following feedback from the consultation exercise and after detailed feasibility work has been carried out by them. Estates financial savings are neither the sole nor the primary factor in making those decisions.

Overall, estates savings in Scotland in the period 2007-08 to 2011-12 are currently estimated at around £23.8 million. HMRC is unable to disclose the financial savings from closure of individual buildings because the release of this information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of HMRC's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) accommodation partners and to impact upon wider aspects of the way in which PFIs operate in the Department and in the wider Government.

Revenue and Customs: Southend-on-Sea

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received since January 2008 from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council on staffing levels in HM Revenue and Customs offices in Southend; what plans he has to meet representatives from the council to discuss this issue; and if he will make a statement; [222288]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the representations received from *(a)* Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and *(b)* the Public and Commercial

Services Union on the closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Southend; what responses he gave in each case; and if he will make a statement. [222289]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers the former Financial Secretary my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy) gave on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 692-93. I have no current plans to meet representatives from Southend council.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* costs and *(b)* projected savings are expected to be of the Estates Consolidation Programme of HM Revenue and Customs in the Southend urban area; what recent representations he has received about this programme; what response was given; and if he will make a statement. [222365]

Mr. Timms: The Estates Consolidation Programme (ECP) is a five-year undertaking designed to deliver £250 million cumulative accommodation running cost savings by releasing surplus accommodation across the HMRC estate. Accommodation is chosen for retention or vacation in conjunction with HMRC's Workforce Change Programme, which aims to ensure that the offices retained are those best suited to the Department's long-term business needs.

The overall projected estates savings for the Eastern England region in the period 2007-08 to 2011-12 are estimated at around £25.9 million. The overall costs associated with delivering those changes over the same period are estimated at around £10.7 million. For reasons of commercial confidentiality, more specific figures cannot be made available.

Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Revenue and Customs: Visits Abroad

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1263W, on Revenue and Customs: visits abroad, why it is no longer possible to disclose the destinations visited by HM Revenue and Customs staff. [223972]

Mr. Timms: Pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1263W, for policy and operational reasons we are unable to disclose which overseas destinations HMRC employees travel to.

HMRC has previously disclosed countries to which HMRC staff have travelled. However in observance of the FOI exemptions we believe the publication of information on the operational focus of our activities could compromise and prejudice future enforcement objectives.

Current systems do not allow for the separation of data between policy and operational visits abroad. Information on policy visits potentially could be disclosed but are not currently held and would incur disproportionate cost to provide.

Stamp Duties: Tax Avoidance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the loss of revenue to the Exchequer from stamp duty tax avoidance through the use of offshore trusts in the last period for which figures are available. [222941]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer the former Economic Secretary to the Treasury my right hon. Friend the Member for Normanton (Ed Balls) gave him on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 415W.

Stocks and Shares: Oil

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to restrict those engaged in the operation of the oil industry from trading in oil futures. [222752]

Mr. Timms: Commodity derivatives, such as the futures market, enable producers and consumers of energy to manage (or hedge) their exposure to adverse price movements in the future, thereby enabling them to plan for the future with certainty regarding the price they will receive or pay for the commodity in question.

Any measure to restrict those engaged in the operation of the oil industry, i.e. producers and consumers, from trading in oil futures would limit the ability of producers and consumers to hedge effectively against adverse price movements in the future, hindering efficient business planning and risk management.

Tax Avoidance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the loss of revenue to the Exchequer from legitimate tax avoidance in the last period for which figures are available. [222940]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Tax Evasion: Lancashire

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many arrests have been made as part of investigations into *(a)* VAT fraud, *(b)* smuggling, *(c)* duty avoidance and *(d)* large-scale tax avoidance in Lancashire in each year since 2000; [223700]

(2) how many arrests were made by customs officers in Lancashire in each year since 2000. [223698]

Mr. Timms: High-level data on arrest statistics are published in HM Revenue and Customs' Annual Reports. Copies of the Annual Reports are available in the Library of the House and online www.hmrc.gov.uk. The specific information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which overseas governments he has received representations on the proposed aviation duty; and if he will make a statement. [220093]

Mr. Timms: The consultation on the proposed aviation duty closed on 24 April 2008, and considered all aspects of the operation of the duty.

A summary of consultation responses will be published in due course.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223025]

Mr. Timms: Spending on taxis in 2007-08 was as follows:

	£
HM Treasury	217,000
Debt Management Office	1,000

Valuation Office: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 258-9W, on the Valuation Office: databases, whether the databases being aligned include the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* geographic information system, *(b)* automated valuation model and *(c)* council tax banding tool. [223076]

Mr. Timms: None of the three applications mentioned in the question are databases; however, they will all benefit from the database alignment exercise.

Valuation Office: Eurostar

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 151W, on the Valuation Office: Eurostar, what source of funding or financial aid system was being investigated. [222488]

Mr. Timms: The European Commission investigation, under article 88(2) of the treaty, was into an alleged state aid in respect of British Telecom's and Kingston Communications' non domestic rating assessments.

Valuation Office: Video Recordings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 152W, on the Valuation Office: video recordings, what the titles are of the internal training videos available on the Valuation Office Agency intranet; [222478]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 151W, on the Valuation Office: video recordings, what the name is of each internal training video used by the Valuation Office Agency for valuation purposes. [222489]

Mr. Timms: The VOA has used video recordings for a variety of training and information purposes. These recordings are usually accessed through the intranet and they are sometimes embedded in documents or accessed via links. The VOA does not maintain a single comprehensive record of all such filmed sequences and to collate this material, examine it, and isolate 'training videos' could be achieved only at a disproportionate cost.

VAT: Parking

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the timetable is for the decision on whether local authorities will be compensated by HM Revenue and Customs for the VAT payments they have made on off-street car park charges; what the Government's policy is on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [222840]

Mr. Timms: The European Court of Justice gave its judgment on this issue on 16 September 2008 and the precedent case will now revert to the High Court for judgment. It would not be appropriate for the Government to comment further on the matter until the legal process has been concluded.

Welfare Tax Credits: ICT

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what IT updates to tax credits systems are planned; on what dates such updates are scheduled for implementation; and what the earliest date is upon which an additional update could be added to the schedule. [224029]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* HM Revenue and Customs are currently working towards delivering three major upgrades to the tax credits system in October 2008, April 2009 and October 2009.

HMRC also makes regular changes throughout the year to secure the ongoing health of the IT system and its ability to deliver tax credits business events.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Madrid Declaration

9. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the 1989 Madrid declaration. [224421]

Bill Rammell: British Ministers have not recently discussed the 1989 Madrid Declaration specifically with EU counterparts. However, we continue to discuss issues relevant to the Declaration, such as encouraging respect for human rights, within the EU and between the EU and China. The arms embargo was last discussed at the 2007 EU-China summit.

Georgia

10. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of relations with Georgia; and if he will make a statement. [224422]

Caroline Flint: Relations with Georgia are excellent. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Tbilisi on 14-15 August and met President Saakashvili in New York on 27 September. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister welcomed the Georgian Prime Minister to London on 19 September.

Throughout events in Georgia this summer, we have worked closely with partners in the EU, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, NATO, G7 and UN to reverse Russia's encroachments into Georgian territory outside the conflict zones, address immediate humanitarian needs, assist Georgia's economic recovery, foster long-term peace and stability, and encourage Georgia's domestic reform programme.

Rwanda

11. **Mr. Joyce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Government of Rwanda on the continued detention of Charles Ntakirutinka. [224423]

Gillian Merron: British officials made representations after the arrest in 2002 of the former Rwandan minister to whom my hon. Friend refers.

Since his trial in 2004, we have continued to take a close interest in this case.

HM ambassador in Rwanda raised this case with the Rwandan Minister for Justice in August.

Health Care: Spain

12. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Spanish counterpart on the decision of the Valencia Autonomous Region on access to local health care facilities for British expatriates below pensionable age. [224424]

Gillian Merron: The new scheme is in line with European law and is intended to bring Valencia into line with the rest of Spain. Officials at the British Embassy in Madrid have been active in negotiating an extension until the end of the year so that British Citizens who might be affected have time to make necessary provisions. The Embassy will remain in close contact with the Valencia Authorities on this issue.

Zimbabwe

13. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [224425]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement to the House yesterday made our position clear. Zimbabwe's people want the agreement signed on paper to work in practice. A Cabinet needs to be appointed without further delay to reform Zimbabwe's economic management and the behaviour of its security forces. The UK continues to provide humanitarian relief to the Zimbabwean people and we remain ready to support recovery when a new government shows commitment to reform.

17. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [224429]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement to the House on 6 October 2008 made our position clear. Zimbabwe's people want the agreement signed on paper to work in practice. A Cabinet needs to be appointed without further delay to reform Zimbabwe's economic management and the behaviour of its security forces. The UK continues to provide humanitarian relief to the Zimbabwean people and we remain ready to support recovery when a new government shows commitment to reform.

Horn of Africa

14. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the Horn of Africa; and if he will make a statement. [224426]

Gillian Merron: The Government remain concerned about ongoing tensions and violence in several areas of the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia.

We continue to work with regional governments and international partners to encourage peaceful resolution of political differences as well as offering humanitarian and development assistance.

Nepal

15. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Nepal. [224427]

Bill Rammell: We welcomed the significant political changes in Nepal following the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in November 2006. Elections to a Constituent Assembly in April 2008 led to the declaration of Nepal as a Federal Republic. Nepal has now appointed its first President and established a multi-party Government.

The new Government recently announced an ambitious programme of work to advance Nepal's peace process. We are helping the Government meet their objectives.

Iran

16. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Iran's nuclear programme. [224428]

Bill Rammell: Dr. Mohammad El Baradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA), reported on the state of Iran's nuclear programme on 15 September 2008. Once again his report confirmed that Iran had failed to suspend enrichment-related activities, had made no progress on the transparency measures the UN Security Council and IAEA have long called for, and that, as a result of Iran's failure to engage, the IAEA had been unable to make any substantive progress on resolving the questions about studies with a possible military dimension, studies which it judges are of serious concern.

Iraq

18. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to facilitate the relocation to places of safety of Iraqi citizens who have assisted British forces. [224430]

Bill Rammell: We continue to work with our Whitehall partners in Ministry of Defence, Department for International Development, and UK Borders Agency and our missions in Iraq, Jordan and Syria to ensure that these brave Iraqis who meet the qualifying criteria for the Iraqi LE Staff Assistance Scheme as set out in my written statement to the House on 30 October 2007 are moved to safety as quickly as possible.

Afghanistan

19. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what objectives he has set for his Department's policies on Afghanistan. [224432]

Bill Rammell: On 12 December 2007 my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, in this House, set out the UK's long-term and comprehensive framework for security, political, social and economic development for Afghanistan.

The key points are:

encouraging and supporting more Afghan ownership, including of the security effort supporting the Government of Afghanistan as they seek to build democracy and governance at local levels;

backing the Government of Afghanistan's attempts to dismantle the insurgency through a politically led approach;

helping the Afghan Government meet the demands of the Afghan people by backing initiatives that encourage economic regeneration and social/economic development.

This strategy sets the strategic objectives for the Government as a whole, including my Department and remains viable today. It can be found on the *Hansard* website.

22. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress the Afghanistan inter-departmental drugs unit has made; and if he will make a statement. [224436]

Bill Rammell: The Afghan Drugs Inter-departmental Unit (ADIDU) continues to take forward the UK's role as the designated G8 Partner Nation with Afghanistan on counter-narcotics. This includes work to support the Government of Afghanistan in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy. The approach of risk and reward is starting to deliver, with more targeted Afghan-led operations and record seizures of narcotics.

European Union

20. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the role of national parliaments in the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [224433]

Caroline Flint: National Parliaments play an increasingly important influence over EU decision-making, through, for example, national scrutiny of EU business and the regular appearance of EU officials before national Parliaments.

Bangladesh

21. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prospects for elections in Bangladesh. [224435]

Bill Rammell: We welcome the announcement by the Chief Adviser, Fakhruddin Ahmed, that parliamentary elections will take place on 18 December 2008. It is vital for Bangladesh's future that all parties participate positively in the democratic process so that successful elections can be followed by a smooth transition of power to the elected government.

Pakistan

23. **John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the election of the new President of Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [224437]

Bill Rammell: The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary spoke to President Zardari on 7 September to congratulate him on his election and reiterate Britain's commitment to working closely with the Government of Pakistan to support measures that promote stability, democracy and the rule of law. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary met President Zardari in London on 16 September and told him that the UK stands ready to assist the Government of Pakistan in combating the shared threat of violent extremism and meeting the economic challenges Pakistan faces.

The Foreign Secretary also saw President Zardari in New York on 25 September and joined him at the lunch of the Friends of Pakistan Group on 26 September.

The accession of President Zardari to the leadership of Pakistan with a 68 per cent. majority completes the transition to full democratic civilian rule for the first time in nine years.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent members of staff in his Department are employed on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games; how many of those work on *(a)* project management, *(b)* legacy planning, *(c)* project oversight and *(d)* financial oversight; and what plans he has for future staffing levels in each case. [221865]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) created a new full-time D6 (First Secretary) Olympics position on 1 September 2008 to work on the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The FCO envisages that by London 2012 a full team of staff will be working on London 2012 projects (including on security, public diplomacy and protocol). However, it is difficult to predict at this stage how many staff might be involved in this work.

The British Council has eight full-time equivalent members of staff working on projects related to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Of these, project management accounts for four full-time posts. Legacy planning, project oversight and financial oversight jointly account for four full-time posts. From 2009 to 2013, the British Council intends to recruit an additional 15 project management posts (three year period per post).

Russia: Missiles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his *(a)* European and *(b)* NATO counterparts on the test-firing by Russia of the RS-12M Topol missile on 27th August 2008; and if he will make a statement. [223654]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the Russian authorities on this test-firing. We discuss missile-related issues with Russia in the context of the Hague Code of Conduct and the missile technology control regime.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with the Russian authorities on the test firing of the RS-12M Topol missile; and if he will make a statement. [224213]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the Russian authorities on this test-firing. We discuss missile-related issues with Russia in the Context of the Hague Code of Conduct and the missile technology control regime.

HEALTH

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [222088]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department uses the geo-demographic systems MOSAIC and ACORN to assist with targeting of marketing and communications messaging. The Department uses the Central Office of Information (COI) to help with this process. The two targeting systems have been used to:

improve targeting on campaigns e.g. when planning a door to door distribution drop to profile, segment then pick off the ACORN audiences that most correspond to communications target audiences to improve efficiency of activity;

give the Department a view of specific geographic areas for targeting in terms of demographic profile;

allow the Department to examine segments of the population on Government surveys and map them to direct mail lists and examine media consumption to enhance how the Department can reach pertinent audience groups when required;

create a bridge between research-based segmentation and more actionable data based segmentation; and

evaluate whether respondents to a campaign fall into an expected audience profile e.g. did the campaign work against the people the Department wanted to respond/convert and which media predominantly drove which type of respondent?

It is possible that other tools or applications may have been used (for example, through external agencies or contractors) which themselves make some use of MOSAIC or ACORN data. The Department may not necessarily be able to identify such indirect use.

Drugs: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admissions to hospital there were where a drugs overdose was a primary or secondary diagnosis at the outset in each NHS trust where the patient was *(a)* under 10, *(b)* between 11 and 15 and *(c)* between 16 and 18 years old in each of the last five years. [222801]

Dawn Primarolo: Information by age group and year on the number of hospital admissions where the primary or secondary diagnosis was poisoning by drugs is in tables which have been placed in the Library.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Casualties

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed service personnel have become *(a)* single, *(b)* double, *(c)* triple and *(d)* quadruple amputees as a result of injuries sustained in Operation Telic and Operation Herrick. [223922]

Mr. Kevan Jones: From April 2006 to August 2008 inclusive, 34 military patients from Afghanistan and 16 from Iraq have been identified as having either a traumatic or surgical amputation; this could range from the loss of part of a finger or toe up to the loss of one or more entire limb(s).

Because of the small numbers of personnel who have suffered an amputation we do not provide further details of amputations as this would increase the risk of an individual being identified and compromising their right to medical confidentiality.

Service personnel who require prosthetic limbs will be provided with these by the Amputee Unit at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court in Surrey, which is the principal medical rehabilitation centre run by the Armed Forces. The Amputee Unit provides high quality prosthetics and adaptations, manufactured on site and individually tailored as necessary for the specific patient. The aim is to provide prosthetics to enable Service personnel to resume Service duties where possible.

Departmental Leave

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees of his Department are on gardening leave. [222811]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1039W, on departmental manpower, what records his Department's human resources department holds of the number of *(a)*

permanent staff without fixed posts or *(b)* staff classified as priority movers. [222192]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Civilian staff who are in posts that are due to be cut, or are awaiting a posting (e.g. on return from overseas or a career break), are placed in the Redeployment Pool six months before the post ends, and remain the responsibility of their existing line management until they find a new job. They are permanent staff who are deployed locally to temporary work within their current business areas until they secure a more permanent position. About 830 civilian staff are currently classified by the Department's HR Management System as members of the Redeployment pool, in which they receive priority consideration for posting.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1174W, on departmental retirement, how many requests to work beyond the standard retirement age were received by his Department in each of the last four years. [222434]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Requests to work beyond normal retirement age have been recorded centrally since 1 October 2006. 123 requests were received in the period October 2006 to March 2007; 473 in the period April 2007 to March 2008. These figures exclude the trading fund agencies. Figures for previous years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Weapons: Arms Trade

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* small arms and *(b)* light weapons were (i) exported and (ii) imported by the UK in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [224312]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 8 October 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Industrial Diseases

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* representations have been received and *(b)* discussions have been held by (i) Ministers and (ii) officials from his Department on insurance and liability arrangements with regard to asbestos-related deaths and ill health due to industrial activity in the last five years; what requests to change those arrangements have been made of the Government; and what the outcome of these representations and discussions has been. [223711]

James Purnell: Ministers and officials in the Department for Work and Pensions have met and received representations on numerous occasions in the last five years from a wide range of stakeholders on insurance and liability arrangements with regard to asbestos-related deaths and ill health due to industrial activity.

Among the changes made as a result of these representations the Government provided more information and guidance to claimants and practitioners. More precisely, we published improved guidance on mesothelioma explaining the help available and where to find it, we provided best practice advice to industrial injuries disablement benefits claims handlers and we undertook public awareness activity to encourage claimants to use qualified, experienced legal practitioners when making a claim.

We also introduced standardised approaches to claiming civil damages by introducing a Standard Claim Letter. To facilitate the speeding up of payment of claims to people with mesothelioma, changes were introduced in the Compensation Act 2006 to enable defendant employers/insurers to claim money back from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

We have worked extensively with partners. We have conducted annual reviews of the Code of Practice for tracing Employers' Liability Insurance policies to ensure the Code is comprehensive and has user confidence. HM Revenue and Customs now trace employer records for people with mesothelioma within 10 working days (previously 25-30 days). The Association of British Insurers (ABI) has issued a claims handling best practice guide within the industry, and has introduced a Code of Practice phone enquiries helpline and issued guidance on getting the best out of the Code. Working with the Department for Business, we have now removed the need to resurrect insolvent companies in order to access ELCI policies, and working with the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, we have helped make it easier for them to compensate people with mesothelioma more quickly.

We have introduced a new scheme for making payments to people with diffuse mesothelioma. The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 introduced a lump-sum payment scheme for people with diffuse mesothelioma who can receive a payment of an average of £10,000 within 6 weeks of claiming (the payment is recovered if any subsequent civil damages are awarded). The scheme started on 1 October 2008.

We have reduced the compliance costs of regulations relating to the display of Employers' Liability Compulsory Insurance certificates. The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (which came into force on 1 October 2008) allowed companies to display certificates electronically when employees have reasonable access to the certificate in that form, and removed the requirement for employers to retain certificates for 40 years.

We have asked questions about the possible reform of the current Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) scheme in the consultation document, "No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility". The consultation asks questions on IIDB: How might we reform Bereavement Benefit and IIDB to provide better support to help people adjust to their new circumstances while maintaining the work focus of the modern welfare state? Are lump sum payments a good way of meeting people's needs? Do they give people more choice and control? Could we make more use of them? The consultation ends on 22 October 2008.

We continue to have discussions with insurers, employers, trades unions, lawyers and other interested parties.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of those on jobseeker's allowance (JSA) have previously been recipients of JSA without an intervening period of employment; and if he will make a statement. [223790]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

Maternity Benefits

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time for maternity allowance claims was in each quarter in each of the last five years. [223490]

James Purnell *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested. The letter will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the average processing time for Maternity Allowance claims in each quarter in each of the last five years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The time it takes to process Maternity Allowance applications is measured by counting the average length of time taken to clear all claims processed within a set time period. The measure is referred to as the Average Actual Clearance Time.

The average processing time for Maternity Allowance claims in each quarter in each of the last five years is contained in the table below.

Maternity allowance average actual clearance time (AACT)

Period	AACT (days)
2003-04	
Quarter 1	13.2
Quarter 2	13.8
Quarter 3	13.8
Quarter 4	13.3
2004-05	
Quarter 1	13.4
Quarter 2	14.2
Quarter 3	14.1
Quarter 4	12.2
2005-06	
Quarter 1	11.1
Quarter 2	11.6
Quarter 3	11.9
Quarter 4	12.7
2006-07	
Quarter 1	14.5
Quarter 2	14.1
Quarter 3	12.9
Quarter 4	13.9
2007-08	
Quarter 1	16.5
Quarter 2	18.8
Quarter 3	20.5
Quarter 4	18.2
2008-09	
Quarter 1	21.0

Over the last few months increases in the number of births in the general population have led through to an increase in Maternity Allowance applications by a fifth. This increase coincided with centralisation into the four units and a temporary dip in productivity associated with retraining existing members of staff. This has led to a backlog of around 7000 claims.

We are responding to these difficulties by increasing the staffing in the centralised sites by a fifth, so they can cope with the increase in new applications. The 7000 backlog cases are being dealt with separately by sharing the cases across our wider network of Benefit Delivery Centres. We are making progress now on clearing these cases. This action has seen immediate improvements in clearance numbers and we expect to have fully cleared the backlog by this autumn.

New Deal Schemes: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of West Lancashire constituency have found employment, work experience or training through the New Deal since its inception, broken down by New Deal programme. [221744]

James Purnell: Information regarding work experience and training is only available for new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus. The available information is in the following tables.

Number of people who have found jobs by each new deal programme from their inception to February 2008 in West Lancashire parliamentary constituency

	Number
New Deal for Young People	1,640
New Deal 25 Plus	460
New Deal for Lone Parents	1,220
New Deal for Disabled People	300
New Deal 50 Plus[1]	160
New Deal for Partners[1]	10

[1] Figures for new deal 50 plus are not available prior to April 2003 and for new deal for partners figures are not available prior to April 2004.

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Those people who have participated on subsidised employment option are included in the above figures for the relevant new deal programmes.
3. Figures for new deal for young people, new deal 25 plus, new deal for lone parents, new deal 50 plus and new deal for partners are available at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/tabtool_nd.asp

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Number of people who have participated in subsidised employment option or full time education option on the new deal for young people in West Lancashire parliamentary constituency to February 2008

	Number
Subsidised Employment Option	70
Full time Education Option	200

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures include those who have left the New Deal programme and current participants.
3. These figures are published at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/tabtool_nd.asp
4. Immediate destination on leaving is measured within two weeks of leaving new deal, using information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Number of people who have participated in subsidised employment option or full time education option on the new deal for 25 plus in West Lancashire parliamentary constituency to February 2008

	Number
Subsidised Employment Option	10
Full time Education Option	340

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Immediate destination on leaving is measured within two weeks of leaving new deal, using information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).
3. Employment includes those in employment and self employment.
4. Figures include those who have left the New Deal programme and current participants.
5. Figures do not include current participants on the follow-through stage of the programme.
6. These figures are published at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/tabtool_nd.asp

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the costs incurred by the Post Office, broken down by *(a)* staff costs, *(b)* distribution and conveyance,

(c) other operating costs and *(d)* (i) voluntary and (ii) involuntary redundancy costs in each of the last five years. [225155]

Mr. McFadden: The Department regularly and closely monitors the financial performance of Post Office Ltd. through the financial year because it is both a publicly owned company and it receives very substantial public funding to support the post office network. As part of this the Department reviews the company's business case forecasts and the annual out-turn with regard to costs and to revenues.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 541W, whether he has any plans for the Cabinet to meet outside London in the next six months. [223008]

The Prime Minister: The Cabinet met in Birmingham on Monday 8 September 2008.

Chequers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 825W, whether the reference to civil servants includes Number 10 political staff. [221159]

The Prime Minister: The answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 825W, is also true of special advisers.

China

Harry Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what meetings he plans to have with Chinese government officials while in China attending the Olympic closing ceremony; and whether he will meet Hu Jintao and Wen Jibao; [220554]

(2) whether he discussed progress in talks between the envoys of the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government with the Chinese President at the G8 summit in Japan. [220601]

Mr. Drew: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings he *(a)* held and *(b)* attended when in Beijing to attend the Olympic closing ceremony with the Chinese government; and whether he discussed (i) human rights and (ii) animal welfare with that government. [225422]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave on 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 20W.

In addition, I refer my hon. Friends to the press briefing I gave en route to Beijing on 21 August 2008. A transcript is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page16647

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 244, how many countries have a higher defence budget than the UK in cash terms in 2008-09. [220537]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) during my statement on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 672-3.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Prime Minister when he last visited *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity. [222608]

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Prime Minister which parliamentary constituencies he has visited since 27 June 2007; on what dates each such visit took place; and what the purpose of each such visit was. [225404]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the written statement I made on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 103-04WS.

Philip Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether his Office keeps a record of his *(a)* train journeys and *(b)* domestic flights made in the course of official business. [222610]

The Prime Minister: I travel making the most efficient and cost-effective arrangements. My travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the "Ministerial Code", and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers".

Departmental Internet

Philip Davies: To ask the Prime Minister how many new websites his Office has set up since 27 June 2007; and what the cost for new websites has been since that date. [222601]

James Duddridge: To ask the Prime Minister how much the recent redesign of the No. 10 website cost; and who carried out the redesign. [225052]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2026W.

Departmental Occupational Health

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister, further to page 52 of the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08, whether a reflection room has been provided for those working in Downing Street offices as part of the Cabinet Office well-being measures. [222506]

The Prime Minister: No.

Departmental Official Engagements

Philip Davies: To ask the Prime Minister when he last met *(a)* a school teacher, *(b)* a nurse, *(c)* a doctor, *(d)* a social worker, *(e)* a police officer and *(f)* a prison officer in the course of his official business. [222607]

The Prime Minister: I frequently meet people from all these occupations in the course of my duties around the UK.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Office was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221305]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1434-36W.

Departmental Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister what his Office's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220426]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Phil Hope) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has undertaken any personal development courses at public expense since June 2007. [221910]

The Prime Minister: No.

Israel: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether he discussed with his Israeli counterpart the status of Israel's nuclear weapons during his visit to Israel on 21 July. [223897]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues on my recent trip to Israel. I refer the hon. Member to the speech I made to the Israeli Knesset, a transcript is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page16423

A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 20-1W, on Ministerial policy advisers, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines on allowances and subsistence. [221259]

The Prime Minister: Guidelines on allowances and subsistence are a matter for the relevant Government Department.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Conditions of Employment

Philip Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether the terms of employment for any of his special advisers differ from the Model Contract for Special Advisers. [222609]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers, including those in my office, are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers.

Ministers: Official Residences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers (1) will have grace and favour accommodation allocated to them; what the locations of that accommodation will be in each case following the changes to the machinery of Government and the Cabinet reshuffle; which Ministers or former Ministers will leave their grace and favour accommodation; and which grace and favour properties will remain empty; [225213]

(2) whether the new Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform will have an official ministerial residence funded by the public purse. [225216]

The Prime Minister: There have been no changes to the answer I gave the hon. Members for Lewes (Norman Baker) and Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1135W.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Prime Minister whether any full-time equivalent members of staff in his Office are working on policy relating to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics games. [221874]

The Prime Minister: My Office is fully engaged with work towards the Olympics led by the DCMS.

Political Office: Furniture

Philip Davies: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* desks, *(b)* computers and *(c)* telephones are provided for the use of the Political Office. [222636]

The Prime Minister: The staffing and associated costs for my Political Office are met by the Labour party. As has been the case under successive Administrations, marginal costs associated with the Political Office are met from within the overall budget for 10 Downing street.

Schools

Philip Davies: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of any materials his Office has distributed to schools in the last three years. [222553]

The Prime Minister: My Office receives many letters from schools and children, all of which receive a reply. In addition, and when appropriate, my Office sends out a booklet about the history of Downing street to schools and children who write in. Copies of this booklet are available in the Library of the House.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to answer question 192528, on visits to 10 Downing Street, tabled on 4 March 2008 by the hon. Member for Southend, West; what the reason is for the time taken to reply; what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to answer written parliamentary questions within a working week of them being tabled; and if he will make a statement. [222392]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer published on 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 449W.

JUSTICE

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221576]

Mr. Wills: The full information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) provide free of charge room hire to organisations that directly support the work of the courts. These include the Crown Prosecution Service, Probation Service, Victim and Witness Service, Police, Shorthand Writers, Press and WRVS. HMCS also hire out to organisations that support the Court Service for training purposes and a system has recently been put in place to record the information requested. Therefore, income for this financial year is currently £3,190.

NOMS/HMPS and the Tribunal Service have confirmed they do not hire out rooms.

Departmental Data Protection

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department have been disciplined in each of the last three years for misconduct involving misuse of personal data. [223635]

Mr. Straw: Records in the former DCA show that three members of staff have been disciplined for inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last three years, all in 2006.

Prison Service records show that members of staff have been disciplined and dismissed for inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last three years. In some of these cases, the inappropriate use of data has been part of a wide range of charges against the members of staff:

April 2005-March 2006: Nil

April 2006-March 2007: Six members of staff were subject to formal disciplinary action and, of these, three were subsequently dismissed from service.

April 2007-March 2008: One member of staff was subject to formal disciplinary action and was subsequently dismissed from service.

Centrally held records in NOMS and OCJR there have been no recorded cases of discipline or dismissal for breaches of data protection and inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data.

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [221970]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's written ministerial statement on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 110-11WS. The Government's approach is to neither confirm nor deny the extent to which use is made of these powers. The Chief Surveillance Commissioner and Interception of Communications Commissioner does however provide statistics of all covert activity authorised under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) in their annual reports, which were laid before both Houses of Parliament on 22 July 2008.

National Probation Service for England and Wales: ICT

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which probation areas within England and Wales use *(a)* Delius, *(b)* CRAMS and *(c)* other IT case management systems. [225144]

Mr. Hanson: As of 7 October 2008, the following probation areas within England and Wales use:

(a) Delius—Greater Manchester, London and West Mercia.

(b) CRAMS—Cheshire, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Dorset, Durham, Dyfed-Powys, Essex, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, North Wales, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Teesside, Warwickshire, West Yorkshire and Wiltshire.

(c) Other IT case management systems—Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Devon and Cornwall, Kent, Merseyside, Norfolk, Suffolk, Sussex (in addition to CRAMS), Thames Valley, and West Midlands.

Reparation by Offenders

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish his response to the Shapland report on restorative justice. [222077]

Mr. Hanson: The evaluation of the Crime Reduction Programme Restorative Justice Pilots, undertaken by Joanna Shapland of the University of Sheffield, was commissioned to develop the evidence base of what

works for adults in terms of restorative justice and to inform future policy developments. Although the most recently published research report showed that, overall, the evidence of the effectiveness of restorative justice in reducing adult re-offending is no stronger than for other interventions, earlier research showed that it delivers high levels of victim satisfaction. The Government are, therefore, considering what further encouragement they can provide to support the continued growth of adult and youth restorative justice, taking account of the complete findings from the evaluation of these pilots.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of custodial sentences imposed on people aged 18 years or under was as proposed in the pre-sentence report prepared by the local youth offending team (YOT) in each YOT area in each month between March 2006 and March 2007. [223022]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have developed a range of sentences that are designed to offer courts a robust alternative to custody. The decision on the most appropriate type of disposal given to a young person is ultimately for the court to make.

The data requested, which are collected by the Youth Justice Board on a quarterly basis, are shown in the following tables.

	Quarter					
	April to June 2006			*July to September 2006*		
YOT	*Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report*	*Custodial sentence imposed*	*Percentage*	*Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report*	*Custodial sentence imposed*	*Percentage*
Barking and Dagenham	0	7	0	1	11	9
Barnet	2	2	100	3	11	27
Barnsley	0	6	0	0	5	0
Bath and North East Somerset	0	2	0	0	2	0
Bedfordshire	2	4	50	1	4	25
Bexley	4	11	36	1	9	11
Birmingham	16	47	34	11	37	30
Blackburn with Darwen	0	5	0	1	1	100
Blackpool	0	5	0	1	6	17
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	3	6	50	3	7	43
Bolton	6	13	46	5	8	63
Bournemouth and Poole	0	2	0	1	7	14
Bracknell Forest	0	0	n/a	3	3	100
Bradford	5	12	42	1	10	10
Brent	2	2	100	0	5	0
Bridgend	0	1	0	1	5	20
Brighton and Hove	0	1	0	3	5	60
Bristol	1	5	20	1	8	13
Bromley	2	2	100	0	0	n/a
Buckinghamshire	0	2	0	3	6	50
Bury	1	4	25	1	4	25
Calderdale	0	1	0	1	2	50
Cambridgeshire	0	6	0	0	4	0
Camden	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Cardiff	1	9	11	1	13	8
Carmarthenshire	2	4	50	5	7	71
Ceredigion	0	0	n/a	0	1	0
Cheshire	1	6	17	7	22	32
Conwy and Denbighshire	2	2	100	6	8	75
Cornwall	1	2	50	0	1	0
Coventry	4	19	21	1	14	7
Croydon	3	9	33	6	8	75
Cumbria	0	3	0	0	4	0
Darlington	0	2	0	0	0	n/a
Derby	3	7	43	3	10	30
Derbyshire	1	14	7	1	8	13
Devon	0	2	0	0	2	0
Doncaster	3	5	60	1	5	20
Dorset	1	3	33	1	2	50

	Quarter					
	April to June 2006			July to September 2006		
YOT	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage
Dudley	0	3	0	0	3	0
Durham	4	2	200	2	5	40
Ealing	0	6	0	2	2	100
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	n/a	1	3	33
East Sussex	5	8	63	3	5	60
Enfield	1	9	11	0	10	0
Essex	0	8	0	1	8	13
Flintshire	0	0	n/a	0	2	0
Gateshead	3	5	60	1	4	25
Gloucestershire	2	5	40	2	6	33
Greenwich	0	2	0	2	0	n/a
Gwynedd Mon	7	7	100	5	5	100
Hackney	5	21	24	1	10	10
Halton and Warrington	1	3	33	0	5	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	7	0	0	3	0
Haringey	2	4	50	1	5	20
Harrow	1	4	25	0	2	0
Hartlepool	0	1	0	1	5	20
Havering	0	4	0	1	3	33
Hertfordshire	1	3	33	3	7	43
Hillingdon	1	2	50	1	4	25
Hounslow	0	6	0	1	4	25
Islington	1	3	33	0	4	0
Kensington and Chelsea	0	3	0	1	2	50
Kent	3	12	25	7	17	41
Kingston-upon-Hull	0	7	0	0	10	0
Kingston-upon-Thames	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Kirklees	3	24	13	5	16	31
Knowsley	1	5	20	0	2	0
Lambeth	0	16	0	1	12	8
Lancashire	9	29	31	12	19	63
Leeds	2	23	9	1	13	8
Leicester City	3	8	38	4	8	50
Leicestershire	1	5	20	0	4	0
Lewisham	1	4	25	1	3	33
Lincolnshire	0	4	0	3	2	150
Liverpool	1	22	5	2	21	10
Luton	1	2	50	1	5	20
Manchester	7	26	27	8	36	22
Medway	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Merthyr Tydfil	0	2	0	0	3	0
Merton	0	2	0	0	0	n/a
Milton Keynes	2	5	40	1	2	50
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	0	1	0	2	4	50
Neath Port-Talbot	0	2	0	2	5	40
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	3	4	75	1	4	25
Newham	2	8	25	2	8	25
Newport	1	11	9	4	9	44
Norfolk	0	2	0	0	0	n/a
North East Lincolnshire	9	10	90	7	8	88
North Lincolnshire	2	8	25	0	2	0
North Somerset	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
North Tyneside	0	2	0	1	6	17
North Yorkshire	3	9	33	2	6	33
Northamptonshire	3	18	17	2	11	18
Northumberland	1	4	25	0	4	0

	Quarter					
	April to June 2006			July to September 2006		
YOT	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage
Nottingham	4	13	31	27	33	82
Nottinghamshire	7	14	50	3	11	27
Oldham	5	7	71	3	7	43
Oxfordshire	0	2	0	0	2	0
Pembrokeshire	0	0	n/a	1	2	50
Peterborough	2	4	50	0	6	0
Plymouth	1	3	33	0	3	0
Powys	0	0	n/a	2	2	100
Reading and Wokingham	4	7	57	4	5	80
Redbridge	0	5	0	1	3	33
Rhondda Cynon Taff	0	3	0	0	0	n/a
Richmond-upon-Thames	0	1	0	0	0	n/a
Rochdale	1	8	13	0	7	0
Rotherham	0	2	0	0	6	0
Salford	2	10	20	2	8	25
Sandwell	3	5	60	4	9	44
Sefton	1	6	17	2	8	25
Sheffield	7	9	78	2	14	14
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	0	2	0	1	6	17
Slough	0	1	0	2	2	100
Solihull	0	0	n/a	0	7	0
Somerset	0	0	n/a	0	2	0
South Gloucestershire	0	1	0	0	0	n/a
South Tees	1	4	25	1	7	14
South Tyneside	2	5	40	3	3	100
Southend-on-Sea	0	4	0	3	6	50
Southwark	1	5	20	0	14	0
St. Helens	2	3	67	1	1	100
Staffordshire	0	8	0	2	10	20
Stockport	1	1	100	2	4	50
Stockton-on-Tees	0	2	0	1	2	50
Stoke-on-Trent	4	10	40	4	14	29
Suffolk	4	10	40	4	8	50
Sunderland	3	5	60	8	9	89
Surrey	4	12	33	0	0	n/a
Sutton	0	4	0	0	2	0
Swansea	9	9	100	5	5	100
Swindon	0	1	0	1	3	33
Tameside	2	9	22	3	8	38
Thurrock	3	4	75	8	9	89
Torbay	0	0	n/a	1	0	n/a
Tower Hamlets and City of London	0	2	0	0	9	0
Trafford	3	8	38	8	8	100
Vale of Glamorgan	1	1	100	0	0	n/a
Wakefield	0	4	0	0	6	0
Walsall	0	7	0	0	4	0
Waltham Forest	3	6	50	7	9	78
Wandsworth	2	10	20	2	13	15
Warwickshire	2	9	22	4	5	80
Wessex	4	42	10	5	31	16
West Berkshire	0	0	n/a	0	1	0
West Sussex	1	5	20	2	6	33
Westminster	3	7	43	0	1	0
Wigan	0	7	0	0	5	0
Wiltshire	0	0	n/a	0	1	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	2	0	0	1	0

	Quarter					
	April to June 2006			July to September 2006		
YOT	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage
Wirral	1	6	17	1	7	14
Wolverhampton	0	4	0	0	3	0
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	2	5	40	1	11	9
Wrexham	1	3	33	2	4	50
York	1	2	50	0	2	0
Total	255	953	27	305	987	31

	Quarter					
	October to December 2006			January to March 2007		
YOT	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage
Barking and Dagenham	0	8	0	1	3	33
Barnet	1	2	50	1	1	100
Barnsley	2	6	33	0	8	0
Bath and North East Somerset	0	3	0	0	1	0
Bedfordshire	1	4	25	0	5	0
Bexley	1	5	20	0	3	0
Birmingham	9	38	24	5	21	24
Blackburn with Darwen	0	4	0	2	4	50
Blackpool	1	12	8	3	5	60
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	1	5	20	1	4	25
Bolton	1	9	11	3	7	43
Bournemouth and Poole	0	1	0	2	2	100
Bracknell Fo est	0	1	0	0	0	n/a
Bradford	4	8	50	7	15	47
Brent	0	1	0	0	2	0
Bridgend	2	5	40	0	1	0
Brighton and Hove	1	2	50	1	5	20
Bristol	0	6	0	0	7	0
Bromley	0	1	0	0	3	0
Buckinghamshire	3	4	75	1	2	50
Bury	2	7	29	1	3	33
Calderdale	2	4	50	0	5	0
Cambridgeshire	0	3	0	1	3	33
Camden	0	8	0	0	6	0
Cardiff	2	11	18	0	13	0
Carmarthenshire	0	0	n/a	3	4	75
Ceredigion	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Cheshire	5	13	38	4	9	44
Conwy and Denbighshire	1	2	50	0	2	0
Cornwall	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Coventry	1	7	14	2	14	14
Croydon	2	3	67	0	3	0
Cumbria	2	4	50	1	16	6
Darlington	1	1	100	1	1	100
Derby	5	7	71	3	7	43
Derbyshire	1	15	7	1	12	8
Devon	0	4	0	0	4	0
Doncaster	0	6	0	3	10	30
Dorset	0	2	0	1	2	50
Dudley	0	2	0	0	2	0
Durham	0	0	n/a	3	6	50
Ealing	1	4	25	0	2	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	2	4	50	0	1	0

	Quarter					
	October to December 2006			January to March 2007		
YOT	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage
East Sussex	1	2	50	1	5	20
Enfield	1	7	14	6	9	67
Essex	1	6	17	3	7	43
Flintshire	2	1	200	2	7	29
Gateshead	2	3	67	1	1	100
Gloucestershire	3	7	43	2	7	29
Greenwich	1	3	33	1	5	20
Gwynedd Mon	0	2	0	3	3	100
Hackney	6	9	67	0	11	0
Halton and Warrington	0	7	0	2	4	50
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	3	33	0	5	0
Haringey	2	5	40	3	9	33
Harrow	0	2	0	2	3	67
Hartlepool	1	1	100	2	3	67
Havering	0	7	0	0	3	0
Hertfordshire	0	4	0	4	7	57
Hillingdon	0	5	0	0	5	0
Hounslow	3	5	60	0	1	0
Islington	0	7	0	0	4	0
Kensington and Chelsea	1	5	20	1	2	50
Kent	8	23	35	8	15	53
Kingston-upon-Hull	0	10	0	1	10	10
Kingston-upon-Thames	4	4	100	1	0	n/a
Kirklees	3	15	20	6	13	46
Knowsley	2	3	67	0	2	0
Lambeth	3	14	21	3	14	21
Lancashire	13	27	48	9	15	60
Leeds	0	8	0	1	8	13
Leicester City	1	3	33	0	3	0
Leicestershire	1	5	20	5	10	50
Lewisham	0	3	0	0	1	0
Lincolnshire	2	3	67	3	3	100
Liverpool	0	19	0	0	16	0
Luton	2	2	100	1	2	50
Manchester	16	51	31	10	38	26
Medway	1	1	100	0	5	0
Merthyr Tydfil	0	3	0	0	2	0
Merton	3	6	50	0	4	0
Milton Keynes	0	1	0	2	6	33
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	1	2	50	0	0	n/a
Neath Port Talbot	1	3	33	0	1	0
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	2	6	33	5	8	63
Newham	2	3	67	1	12	8
Newport	3	8	38	0	4	0
Norfolk	1	2	50	2	4	50
North East Lincolnshire	8	13	62	3	7	43
North Lincolnshire	3	2	150	4	12	33
North Somerset	1	2	50	1	3	33
North Tyneside	1	4	25	0	2	0
North Yorkshire	3	7	43	2	11	18
Northamptonshire	1	9	11	1	18	6
Northumberland	1	3	33	4	6	67
Nottingham	16	22	73	12	21	57
Nottinghamshire	3	6	50	9	14	64
Oldham	1	5	20	1	5	20
Oxfordshire	0	2	0	0	5	0

	Quarter					
	October to December 2006			January to March 2007		
YOT	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage
Pembrokeshire	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Peterborough	2	3	67	5	15	33
Plymouth	0	2	0	0	0	n/a
Powys	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Reading and Wokingham	3	4	75	0	4	0
Redbridge	0	6	0	4	8	50
Rhondda Cynon Taff	0	8	0	0	5	0
Richmond-upon-Thames	0	1	0	0	0	n/a
Rochdale	2	9	22	0	5	0
Rotherham	0	8	0	0	5	0
Salford	2	12	17	1	8	13
Sandwell	4	7	57	4	8	50
Sefton	3	9	33	2	7	29
Sheffield	2	11	18	1	9	11
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	0	5	0	0	1	0
Slough	1	4	25	0	5	0
Solihull	0	1	0	0	0	n/a
Somerset	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
South Gloucestershire	0	2	0	1	2	50
South Tees	0	3	0	0	0	n/a
South Tyneside	0	6	0	4	4	100
Southend-on-Sea	0	1	0	1	2	50
Southwark	1	10	10	3	9	33
St. Helens	0	4	0	0	4	0
Staffordshire	1	2	50	0	7	0
Stockport	5	8	63	5	6	83
Stockton-on-Tees	0	2	0	2	4	50
Stoke-on-Trent	2	6	33	4	8	50
Suffolk	0	5	0	3	11	27
Sunderland	0	2	0	0	0	n/a
Surrey	0	4	0	4	6	67
Sutton	1	2	50	0	0	n/a
Swansea	3	4	75	3	4	75
Swindon	0	2	0	0	1	0
Tameside	1	5	20	4	4	100
Thurrock	2	2	100	4	6	67
Torbay	3	3	100	1	2	50
Tower Hamlets and City of London	1	12	8	0	4	0
Trafford	2	3	67	3	5	60
Vale of Glamorgan	1	2	50	2	2	100
Wakefield	0	6	0	0	9	0
Walsall	0	1	0	0	7	0
Waltham Forest	5	6	83	5	5	100
Wandsworth	6	9	67	0	6	0
Warwickshire	2	7	29	0	5	0
Wessex	6	33	18	6	24	25
West Berkshire	0	0	n/a	0	3	0
West Sussex	1	4	25	1	4	25
Westminster	1	2	50	0	1	0
Wigan	0	6	0	0	6	0
Wiltshire	0	1	0	0	1	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Wirral	0	12	0	0	9	0
Wolverhampton	3	3	100	3	9	33
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	2	6	33	1	8	13
Wrexham	4	6	67	3	2	150

	Quarter					
	October to December 2006			January to March 2007		
YOT	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage	Occasions custody proposed in the pre-sentence report	Custodial sentence imposed	Percentage
York	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Total	258	905	29	259	895	29

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Ethnic Groups

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Royal Thai Government on the recent deportations of Karen refugees from camps in Thailand back to Burma. [223298]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* We are aware of recent reports of forced returns of Karen refugees from Thailand. Our embassy in Bangkok frequently raises refugee welfare issues with the Royal Thai government. Recent discussions have covered the need for measures to mitigate the impact of the increase in the price of rice, refugees' access to jobs and education and the impact of Cyclone Nargis on the camps.

The Government have increased support for Burmese refugees in Thailand. It has recently allocated a further £1 million to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium for its work supporting Burmese refugees in Thailand and internally displaced persons inside Burma. In 2007-08, the Department for International Development provided £400,000 for assistance to internally displaced persons through community-based organisations inside Burma. This reached more than 100,000 displaced persons, mostly in Karen communities, living near Burma's border with Thailand.

The UK condemns the continuing human rights abuses and the political, social and economic restrictions from which the ethnic groups of Burma—including the Karen group—have suffered under the current regime. Acceptable agreement for the ethnic nationalities is key to a durable solution to Burma's problems. We continue to bring reports of human rights abuses to the attention of the international community, the UN and the UN Human Rights Council.

China: Pandas

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have taken place with the Chinese Government on the proposal to loan two giant pandas from China to Edinburgh Zoo; what the Government's policy is on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [224052]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* We are aware that The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) is in discussion with its counterparts in China about conservation collaboration, of which the proposed loan of pandas is only one element. At the request of the Scottish Executive, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi when he visited China in February. The Government regard this primarily as an arrangement between the RZSS and the Chinese authorities, but are supportive of the underlying objective of promoting collaboration in the area of animal conservation.

China: Taiwan

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of developments in relations between Taiwan and mainland China on the stability of the region. [221702]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 22 March, the change of administration in Taiwan is a real opportunity to renew efforts to improve cross-Strait relations. We hope that the Chinese government and Taiwanese administration will continue to engage in direct dialogue to resolve differences and strengthen cross-Strait stability, with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the Taiwan question acceptable to the people of both sides of the Strait.

We welcome the efforts undertaken by both sides to improve China-Taiwan relations. We support the EU declaration of 19 September which similarly sought to encourage dialogue and commended the willingness of both sides to continue and widen discussions in the coming months, contributing to reinforced stability and security in East Asia.

Georgia: South Ossetia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the presidency of the Council of Ministers of the EU was informed by (i) the US administration and (ii) the Georgian government of Georgia's plans to take military action in South Ossetia before the action took place. [223180]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Neither the Government nor, do we believe, the EU presidency were given advance warning of Georgian plans to take military actions in South Ossetia.

Indeed, prior to the outbreak of hostilities on 7 August—and while tensions were rising—UK and other EU partners and allies actively sought to encourage all parties to exercise restraint, avoid actions likely to increase tensions and work towards a sustainable resolution of the conflict.

Israel: EU External Relations

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that information shared between the EU and Israel under the Co-operation in

Justice and Home Affairs Initiative of the EU-Israel Association Council has not been obtained in circumstances which would be defined as torture in UK law. [220244]

Bill Rammell: The UK abides by its commitments under international law, including the UN Convention Against Torture, and expects all other countries to comply with their international obligations.

We have made it clear that all intelligence received from foreign sources, in whatever forum, is carefully evaluated, particularly where it is clear it has been obtained from individuals in detention.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the location is of each office occupied by her Office which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [221921]

Tessa Jowell: The following locations have been occupied by the office of the Minister for the Olympics: 70 Whitehall; 26 Whitehall; and 2-4 Cockspur Street. 26 Whitehall and 2-4 Cockspur Street have been refurbished in the last 24 months. The floor area of each location for the Minister for the Olympics Office and Private Office is: 70 Whitehall, 78.21 sq m; 26 Whitehall, 105.48 sq m; and 2-4 Cockspur Street, 93 sq m.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in her Office were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223067]

Tessa Jowell: There have been no disciplinary breaches in my Office during the last 12 months.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to her Office in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the financial database of her Office's parent department. [221926]

Tessa Jowell: This information is not recorded in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much her Office has spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework since its establishment. [221927]

Tessa Jowell: My Office has not incurred any expenditure with any of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework since its establishment.

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff from public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies have been seconded to her Office since its establishment. [222221]

Tessa Jowell: There have been no secondments of staff to my Office from public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies since its establishment.

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff from her Office have been seconded to public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies since its establishment. [222223]

Tessa Jowell: No members of my staff have been seconded to public relations, public affairs or consultancies since its establishment.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use her Office has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [221925]

Tessa Jowell: My Office has made no use of Dorneywood for official engagements during the last 12 months.

Olympic Games 2012: Schools

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library a copy of materials her Department has distributed to schools in the last three years. [222555]

Tessa Jowell: My Department has not distributed any materials to schools over the last three years.

Olympic Games 2012: Technology

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what date in 2012 the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games's technology freeze will come into force; which technologies the freeze will be applied to; and which body is responsible for implementing the freeze. [223965]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for planning and implementing the core technology and information systems that will be needed to host the Games in 2012. LOCOG's current expectation is to implement a lock-down on core Games technology by the end of 2010 to allow for rigorous testing and integration across all mission critical designs, equipment and operational processes.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much her Office spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223024]

Tessa Jowell: The Minister for the Olympics' office spent £620.26 on taxis for the last financial year.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Legislation

Mr. Baron: To ask the Leader of the House how many pages of *(a)* primary and *(b)* delegated legislation were passed by the House in each Session commencing in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990 and (iii) each year between 1996 and 2006. [225212]

Chris Bryant: The information requested is as follows:

	Pages of primary legislation	*Pages of delegated legislation*
1980	2,110	5,440
1990	2,390	6,550
1996	3,150	10,230
1997	2,060	8,660
1998	2,490	7,480
1999	2,096	10,760
2000	3,865	8,770
2001	1,605	10,830
2002	2,868	9,070
2003	4,073	8,942
2004	3,470	10,236
2005	2,712	11,868
2006	4,609	12,083

Note:
The figures for statutory instruments relate to the number of pages in the Stationery Office bound set—this excludes some local and unpublished instruments and, more recently, those of the National Assembly for Wales. The figures do not include Northern Ireland (Stormont) Acts or Statutory Rules. Pre-1987 figures are adjusted to current page sizes.

For more detailed information please see the House of Commons Library note: "Acts and Statutory Instruments: Volume of UK legislation 1950 to 2007" at:

www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/notes/snsg-02911.pdf

WALES

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its NDPBs and *(c)* its agencies. [224547]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has a complement of three press and communications officers. The Wales Office has no NDPBs or agencies.

HEALTH

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects it to be the default position for all new cancer drugs and significant new licensed indications to be referred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [224575]

Dawn Primarolo: The Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS), published on 3 December 2007 and already placed in the Library, included a commitment that all new cancer drugs and significant new licensed indications will be referred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), where there is a sufficient patient population and evidence base on which to carry out an appraisal. The CRS also makes a commitment that cancer drugs will be considered through NICE'S Single Technology Appraisal (STA) process where appropriate. I have agreed revisions to the topic selection process to implement the Cancer Reform Strategy commitments and NICE'S 19th work programme will be the first to be referred to NICE under the revised arrangements.

Diabetes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to prevent diabetes; [225136]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to improve treatments for diabetes patients in the NHS. [225137]

Ann Keen: This Government continue to support the implementation of the Diabetes national service framework (NSF) and work with key partners to support the NHS in driving forward improvements in diabetes care. The Department, in partnership with Diabetes UK and the National Diabetes Support Team, has published reports, documents and toolkits in a number of areas that are intended to provide quality information and standards for commissioners and health care providers to help them plan and deliver services envisaged in the NSF.

"Putting Prevention First", published on 1 April 2008 and already placed into the Library, outlined plans for a national programme of vascular checks, which PCTs will begin to roll out in 2009-10. Full roll out is anticipated in 2012-13 when we hope the checks will be available to all people between the ages of 40 and 74, on a five year rolling basis. The checks aim to help people be healthier for longer by assessing and managing their risk of developing vascular conditions, such as chronic heart disease and diabetes. The checks will ensure that people are given information about their health, supported to make lifestyle changes and, in some cases, offered earlier interventions.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what planning his Department has undertaken in respect of the manning of the Future Aircraft Carriers; and if he will make a statement. [224452]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* A specific manning team was established during the early stages of the Future Aircraft Carriers Project charged with producing a detailed manpower plan. This plan has evolved as the design of the carriers has matured and will continue to evolve. It is intended to produce an endorsed manpower plan by the end of 2009. However, further refinement will continue until the ships enter service. Our current planning assumption is that the Future Carriers will be manned with a core compliment of 680. This figure excludes flight crew for embarked aircraft.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Royal Navy personnel man existing aircraft carriers; and how many will be required to man each of the Future Aircraft Carriers; [224453]

(2) what effect he anticipates on the manning of other units of the Fleet when *(a)* the first and *(b)* both of the Future Aircraft Carriers receive their full crews. [224455]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The two existing operational carriers are each manned with a core complement of 698. Our current planning assumption is that the Future Carriers will each be manned with a core complement of 680. Both these figures exclude flight crew for the embarked aircraft.

Armed Forces: Food

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* pork and *(d)* chicken supplied to the armed forces came from livestock reared in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [224740]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Under the MOD single food supply contract, 100 per cent. of pork and gammon, and 55 per cent. of beef is sourced from the UK. Of the poultry requirement, up to 15 per cent. is sourced from the UK, although 100 per cent. of turkeys are British, and an initiative has been launched to increase the number of British chickens procured. Recently the amount of British lamb procured has increased from 9 per cent. to 19 per cent., and the MOD continues to look for opportunities to increase this further while still achieving best value for money. Figures for food procured under the Pay as You Dine project, which now accounts for more than 50 per cent. of troops fed, are not held centrally, although these contractors are also required, wherever competitive, to give full consideration to procuring British products.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of the armed forces' *(a)* Mastiff, *(b)* Jackal, *(c)* Panther and *(d)* Snatch Land Rover vehicles were (i) in service, (ii) fit for purpose and (iii) out of service at the latest date for which figures are available; [223673]

(2) what percentage of the armed forces' *(a)* Vectors, *(b)* Viking and *(c)* Bulldog vehicles were (i) in service, (ii) fit for purpose and (iii) out of service at the latest date for which figures are available. [223846]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is as follows:

Vehicle	*In Service (percentage of fleet number)*	*Fit for Purpose (percentage of in service number)*	*Out of service (percentage of fleet number)*
Mastiff	100	93	—
Jackal	100	81	—
Panther	100	99	—
Snatch Land Rover	72	90	28
Vectors	100	93	—
Viking	100	79	—
Bulldog	100	100	—

The Snatch figures highlight the fact that two of the early variants are now obsolete and cannot be used. They are currently awaiting disposal.

The percentage of Viking Fit for Purpose reflects 18 vehicles which are part of the Total Fleet but which are awaiting replacement. They are therefore In Service but not Fit for Purpose.

Army: Buildings

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the proposed new Army Headquarters land at Andover will be in new, purpose-built accommodation; and if he will make a statement; [225203]

(2) when the Army will vacate Erskine Barracks at Wilton. [225205]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The new Land Forces Headquarters at Andover will use existing buildings which will be refurbished as necessary to provide updated accommodation for all staff.

The Army will vacate Erskine Barracks at Wilton progressively between mid-2010 and 2012.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many notifications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies made to the Information Commissioner following the loss or mishandling of personal information or data in each of the last three years; and what was notified in each case. [222901]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence including its agencies has published details of the personal data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its Annual Report and Accounts published on 21 July 2008. Two such incidents were notified.

During 2005-06 the Department formally reported one incident of accidental disclosure of protected personal data to the Information Commissioner's Office.

As a result of a limited failure by an automatic mailing machine, three members of the Army Regular or Long Term Reserve received copies of letters containing personal details of other reservists': name and address; next of kin name and address; marital status and date of marriage; the name and nationality of spouse; and bank account number, account title and sort code.

Letters of apology were sent to the reservists whose personal data were disclosed without consent.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in Government.

Helicopters: Sales

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* army helicopters have been sold by his Department to foreign governments since April 2002. [224726]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Since April 2002 the Disposal Services Authority has sold three Sea King helicopters to Australia in the financial year 2005-06. They were not in an airworthy condition and were sold for spares recovery through Agusta Westland under a Commercial Marketing Agreement.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Empty Property

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 791W, on housing: empty property, what proportion of the dwellings in each Government Office region were empty public sector dwellings in both years. [222885]

Mr. Iain Wright: The term public sector has been interpreted to mean "social rented" dwellings, i.e. local authority and registered social landlord owned dwellings.

The following tables show the level of social rented vacancies against the level of total vacancies in both 2006 and 2007. These tables show all vacancies, both long and short term.

Dwelling vacancies in 2006 (long and short term vacancies)

	Total empty domestic dwellings as at 9 October 2006[1]	*Local authority vacancies as at 1 April 2006*[2]	*Registered social landlord vacancies as at 31 March 2006*[3]	*Total social vacancies*	*Percentage of total vacancies that are social rent*
NE	48,287	4,340	3,236	7,576	16
NW	136,783	6,295	7,947	14,242	10
YH	90,947	6,142	2,882	9,024	10
EM	65,495	4,294	1,244	5,538	8
WM	79,208	3,923	4,550	8,473	11
E	68,485	3,105	1,868	4,973	7
L	86,701	10,107	4,405	14,512	17
SE	102,812	2,780	2,471	5,251	5
SW	69,441	1,887	1,567	3,454	5
England	748,159	42,873	30,170	73,043	10

Dwelling vacancies in 2007 (long and short term vacancies)

	Total empty domestic dwellings as at 8 October 2007[1]	*Local authority vacancies as at 1 April 2007*[2]	*Registered social landlord vacancies as at 31 March 2007*[3]	*Total social vacancies*	*Percentage of total vacancies that are social rent*
NE	48,066	4,311	3,126	7,437	15
NW	141,060	6,441	7,822	14,263	10
YH	101,035	5,777	3,673	9,450	9
EM	69,805	3,962	987	4,949	7
WM	80,359	3,208	4,532	7,740	10
E	69,072	2,496	1,766	4,262	6
L	84,596	9,846	4,651	14,497	17
SE	101,761	3,075	2,602	5,677	6
SW	66,881	1,847	1,614	3,461	5
England	762,635	40,963	30,773	71,736	9

[1] Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities. Figures are reported as at October in each year.
[2] Local authority vacancies reported by local authorities to Communities and Local Government through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). Figures are reported as at 1 April in each year.
[3] Registered social landlord vacancies as reported by registered social landlords to the Housing Corporation through the Regulatory Statistical Return. Figures are reported as at 31 March in each year.

Eco-towns

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the full background dataset of the YouGov survey of attitudes to eco-towns as referred to in her Department's press release of 30 June 2008. [222620]

Mr. Iain Wright: With regard to the recent YouGov survey on eco-towns, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1355W, to the hon. Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier). A copy of the background dataset will be placed in the Library.

Fire Services

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters there were per 100,000 residents in *(a)* England, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* Chesterfield in each year since 1997. [225329]

Mr. Khan: Information on the number of firefighters per 100,000 population in Derbyshire and England is set out in the following table. Information for Chesterfield is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Firefighters per 100,000 population

	Derbyshire	*England*
1997-98	90	92
1998-99	87	92
1999-2000	90	91
2000-01	87	91
2001-02	88	90
2002-03	83	90
2003-04	85	90
2004-05	85	89
2005-06	82	89
2006-07	81	89

Source:
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many retained firefighters entered full-time service in each of the last three years, broken down by brigade. [225440]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Floods: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been paid from receipts from the EU Solidarity Fund in respect of flood damage in Nottinghamshire in 2007, broken down by category of expenditure. [224921]

John Healey: Because of the UK's success in bidding for the European Union Solidarity Fund the Government were able to set up a Restoration Fund of almost £31 million for English local authorities affected by last summer's flood to support their continued efforts to rebuild their communities. Nottinghamshire has in total

received £786,621 from the Restoration Fund. Bassetlaw district council received £40,438, Newark and Sherwood district council received £20,659 and Nottingham county council received £725,524.

Restoration Fund allocations were unringfenced; this allowed local authorities the discretion to make spending decisions based on their own local knowledge and priorities. Due to the unringfenced nature of the allocations local authorities are not required to inform Government as to how this money was spent.

Housing: Insulation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of homes which have solid walls in *(a)* Castle Point, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England. [224893]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department's English House Condition Survey collects information on the number of homes which have solid walls. This is a sample survey designed to provide national and regional level estimates only. The most recent available results from the survey are for 2005 and this estimated that there were 6.7 million homes with solid walls in England, of which 764,000 were in the South East region.

These figures for 'solid walls' include all homes without cavity walls. In the main these are solid masonry walls but will also include some homes (totalling less than 4 per cent. of the whole housing stock) of prefabricated concrete or steel/timber frame construction. The numbers of homes in these latter categories are too small to estimate reliably through the sample survey.

The Department does not collect this information at a local level and is therefore not able to provide the number of homes which have solid walls in Castle Point or for Essex.

Housing: Solar Energy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new houses built or to be built in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 have solar panels. [224922]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of new build dwellings with solar panels is not held centrally.

Local Authorities: Public Participation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to give the general public greater access to information on how their local authority is being run. [225156]

John Healey: Information about the national indicators and other local area data are currently publicly available on the Floor Targets Interactive website

http://www.fti.communities.gov.uk/fti/.

This enables citizens to compare performance between local authority areas and measure progress over time.

We are also working with local government to develop more effective provision by councils of timely performance and service information to their citizens. As part of this work we will be supporting, from late 2008, a range of pilot projects in local authorities to evaluate innovative techniques to empower citizens through information provision.

In addition to this, the Audit Commission and public service inspectorates are currently consulting and trialling their proposed methodology for the new comprehensive area assessment (CAA), which will replace the current comprehensive performance assessment from April 2009.

The CAA will assess and publicly report performance against all local area agreement targets, other local priorities and all 196 indicators in the national indicator set, taking into account the experiences of local people and their satisfaction with local services. The reports, which are being designed to give the public access to information on the effectiveness of local delivery, are due to be published for the first time in November 2009.

Lastly, we are reviewing actions to give local people clearer information on councils' performance on efficiency. Under proposals out to consultation, we would require councils to include standard, simple measures of efficiency performance alongside council tax demand notices.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage local authorities to be more open to public scrutiny. [225157]

John Healey: The recent Local Government White Paper—'Communities in Control'—sets out the Governments plans to enable greater public scrutiny of local authorities. We are currently consulting on improving local accountability arrangements including strengthened powers for overview and scrutiny committees, regular public meetings for key local decision makers and petitioning schemes. This consultation closes on 30 October and we will carefully consider all the responses we receive before deciding how to implement our plans for greater scrutiny of councils.

Local Government: Surveillance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued to local authorities by *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* the Audit Commission on the use of surveillance powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 since the Act came into force. [222655]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

No guidance has been issued specifically to local authorities by either Home Office or Audit Commission. The statutory codes of practice and regulations made under the Act provide guidance for public authorities.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Students: Finance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to improve access to bursaries and other assistance for students from low income backgrounds to enable them to complete undergraduate degree studies. [221886]

Mr. Lammy: Universities are required to pay a minimum bursary to all students receiving the maximum maintenance grant. Most institutions are offering more than the minimum. The typical bursary in 2008-09 is around £1,000 per year.

The great majority of those entitled to bursaries are either applying to their university for funding, or are the subject of an automatic notification of eligibility from the Student Loans Company to their university because they had given consent to the sharing of financial data.

To further improve take-up, Department officials have worked closely with the Student Loans Company and other stakeholders to improve the bursary consent arrangements on the 2008-09 student finance application form.

The introduction of an 'opt out' clause, giving both the student and their sponsor an opportunity to opt out of consenting to their personal information being shared with universities for bursary purposes, is expected to increase the numbers of students assessed for and receiving bursaries. Clear guidance states that a decision to opt out of sharing data with universities does not affect entitlement to other forms of support.

Promotional materials have been issued to raise awareness of the availability of bursaries and encourage students to seek further information from institutions. The Government-sponsored directgov website also provides students with a bursary map, permitting them to carry out an online search of institutional bursaries.

In addition, students in financial difficulty during their course can apply for additional help through the Government-funded Access to Learning Fund (ALF). ALF is a discretionary fund administered directly by individual higher education institutions which are best placed to assess their students' circumstances.

The latest figures show that acceptances to universities for England are at an all-time high, with the proportion of applicants from lower socio-economic groups also up. The current package of student support means that anyone who can benefit from higher education has the opportunity to do so. This Government have brought back non-repayable grants and greatly expanded the numbers who get them. This autumn, around two-thirds of full-time eligible students will qualify for non-repayable grants of up to £2,835 a year. Full-time students can also apply for loans to meet their tuition fees and to help with living costs.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Safety

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps she is taking to ensure that *(a)* very light jets and *(b)* private helicopters do not present a danger to civil aviation; [222978]

(2) what measures are in place to *(a)* regulate and *(b)* identify the operators of (i) very light jets and (ii) privately-owned operated helicopters. [222979]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Appropriate measures exist to ensure the safety of very light jets (VLJs) and private helicopters.

Since 28 September 2003, the regulation and airworthiness approval of the type design of the majority of aircraft on the UK register has been the responsibility of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). This includes the approval of both VLJs and helicopters.

The specific airworthiness requirements regulating the structure, engines, systems and equipment, and performance for very light jet aeroplanes are being drawn from a combination of the EASA airworthiness certification specification codes CS-23 ("Normal, utility, aerobatic and commuter category aeroplanes") and CS-25 ("Large aeroplanes"), as appropriate to the design under consideration. The regulatory and industrial processes of taking design concepts through to final production is well established and it is not envisaged that there will be any difference on how VLJs would be expected to comply with the appropriate requirements. Where the use of new technologies is involved, the existing requirements are supplemented by additional conditions to define the regulatory basis for their acceptance.

Helicopter design and airworthiness requirements are contained in the EASA certification specifications codes CS-27 ("Small rotorcraft") and CS-29 ("Large rotorcraft"). In recent years, there have been a considerable number of new helicopter designs introduced to the market place, many employing of new technologies and product improvements over their predecessors.

The operational requirements in place to regulate privately owned and operated helicopters and VLJs being flown for purposes other than commercial air transport are those of the United Kingdom Air Navigation Order 2005 and its regulations. The operational requirements for VLJ being flown for commercial air transport are those of Annex III to Regulation (EEC) No. 3922/9, commonly known as EU-OPS.

Regulation (EC) No. 216/2008 requires the European Aviation Safety Agency to develop implementing rules, which will, by not later than 8 April 2012, apply to all aircraft whether operated commercially or non-commercially. These implementing rules will replace existing operational requirements. In addition, operators engaged in the non-commercial operation of VLJs and helicopters with a maximum take-off mass exceeding 3,175 kg or with a maximum seating configuration of more than nine, will have to declare to the Civil Aviation Authority their capability and means of discharging the responsibilities associated with the operation of their aircraft. The detailed draft implementing rules have not yet been published for consultation but it can be expected that they will enable member states to clearly identify the operators of such aircraft.

The Air Navigation Order 2005 requires that the name and address of the registered owner or charterer by demise of any aircraft, including VLJs and privately owned helicopters, shall be included on the details held in the UK Register of Civil Aircraft. The CAA Regulations stipulate that the UK Register of Civil Aircraft is available for inspection by any person and the CAA makes the register available via the CAA website at

www.caa.co.uk/ginfo.

If a VLJ is to be operated commercially it will be identifiable from the Air Operator's Certificate, otherwise there are no specific operational measures in place to identify the operators of VLJs or privately owned helicopters.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222116]

Mr. Hoon: The total expenditure figures for external public relations support for the Department for Transport and Executive Agencies, not all of which is commissioned through COI's PR framework, are set out in the following table. The figures, which are rounded, cover the last three fiscal years and include the cost of public relations agency fees and the cost of public relations promotions in various media. Monthly expenditure figures could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

The prime use of external public relations is in support of our marketing activities on the THINK! road safety, Act on C02, European Whole Vehicle Type Approval, and Concessionary Bus Fares campaigns, and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's continuous registration campaign.

£000

Department for Transport	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DfT Central	255	362	625
Driving Standards Agency	0	0	0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	872	371	500
Highways Agency	0	0	0
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	0	26	27
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	73	79	53
Vehicle Certification Agency	0	0	0
Government Car and Despatch Agency	0	0	0

The Department and Executive Agencies do not appoint any marketing agencies under the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework. We have however incurred marketing spend. Figures for the Department and Executive Agencies for the 2007-08 fiscal year are as follows:

Department for Transport	*2007-08 (£)*
DfT Central	26.7 million
Driving Standards Agency	299,700
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	10.4 million
Highways Agency	1.6 million
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	57,000
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1.075 million
Vehicle Certification Agency	80,500
Government Car and Despatch Agency	171,800

Again the Department's major areas of marketing spend were in support of our marketing activities on the THINK! road safety campaign, Act on C02 campaign, Concessionary Bus Fares campaign, aviation security and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's continuous registration campaign.

Potters Bar Investigation Board

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the operation of the Potters Bar Investigation Board. [225146]

Paul Clark: The Potters Bar Investigation Board (PBIB) was appointed by the Health and Safety Commission following the fatal derailment at Potters Bar on 10 May 2002. Following the closure of all the PBIB's recommendations, the Office of Rail Regulation's Board reviewed the work of the PBIB this summer and agreed to its disbandment.

Public Transport: Official Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many official visits he plans to take using public transport in the next 12 months; and which official visits were taken using public transport by his immediate predecessor. [225626]

Mr. Hoon: All official travel undertaken by me will be made in the most efficient and cost-effective way, in accordance with the provisions of the Ministerial Code. The same rules applied to my immediate predecessor.

Railway Stations: Greater London

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on the proposed closure of the South London Line between London Bridge and London Victoria stations. [223730]

Paul Clark: There is no plan to close the South London Line. However, during the period of construction works at London Bridge to deliver the Thameslink Project, it is unlikely to be possible to operate direct trains between Denmark Hill and London Bridge.

Railways: Construction

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the average cost per mile of new high-speed rail track construction. [209070]

Paul Clark: According to the 2003 Strategic Rail Authority report on high-speed rail, the average cost for the channel tunnel rail link (CTRL) section one was £19 million per route-kilometre, although this excludes some major cost items associated with station works and sunk costs. The report considered that section of the CTRL characteristic of a high-speed line extending north from London. If costs for CTRL sections one and two are included, the average cost of the CTRL was £48 million per route-kilometre including tunnelling.

Precise costs vary depending on a number of factors including the route, whether construction is on a disused railway alignment or built on green fields and the need for major works such as tunnelling. Costs of operation and maintenance must also be considered. Average costs do not therefore tell the whole story, but recent work for the Department for Transport suggested a new double track high-speed rail line might cost £12-16 million per route-kilometre.

Network Rail recently announced a strategic review of the case for new rail lines. The study is expected to be complete next summer.

Schools: Publications

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of any materials her Department has distributed to schools in the last three years. [222550]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Children are a key target audience for many of our road safety and environmental messages and will benefit for example from our recent £140 million investment into encouraging children to cycle to school via construction of new safer links to schools and investment in cycle training.

We are conscious of the significant volumes of material that head teachers receive, so the Department for Transport and our Executive Agencies do not distribute materials directly to schools. We and the Highways Agency have however produced road safety materials such as THINK! road safety campaign materials, which have been distributed to various partners—road safety officers in local authorities in particular. These partners will have given out our material in schools. We also receive frequent requests from teachers for our road safety materials which they will have used/distributed in schools.

South West Trains: Tickets

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it her policy to oppose the plans by South West Trains to reduce ticket office opening hours at 114 stations, following the August 2008 report from Passenger Focus; and if he will make a statement. [223763]

Paul Clark: The procedures for making changes to ticket office opening hours are set down in the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement (TSA). The TSA permits operators to make changes to the opening hours of their ticket offices as long as the appropriate specified criteria are met.

If objections are raised and not resolved, the TSA provides for an arbitration process to be followed. This can include referral by the train operating company to the Secretary of State for Transport for a decision. It would therefore be inappropriate for the Secretary of State to comment on the proposed changes at this stage.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Voluntary Work

7. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Cabinet Office's programmes to encourage voluntary action in the last 12 months. [224361]

8. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's programmes to encourage voluntary work. [224362]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones) and the right hon. Member for Bracknell (Mr. Mackay).

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Government programmes to encourage voluntary work. [224365]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones) and the right hon. Member for Bracknell (Mr. Mackay).

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Government programmes to encourage voluntary work. [224363]

Kevin Brennan: There have been a range of Government programmes that have encouraged and supported volunteering. The statistics from the 2007-08 Citizenship Survey show that the proportion of people who volunteered at least once in the last 12 months remains high at 73 per cent. of all adults.

Government Communications: Security

9. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the security of data within the Government communications network; and if he will make a statement. [224364]

Mr. Watson: On 25 June 2008 the Cabinet Office set out mandatory measures to improve data security across Government. I can state that central Government Departments have reported that the majority of these measures are in place and they are working to complete their delivery.

Power of Information Task Force

11. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress has been made by the power of information task force; and if he will make a statement. [224367]

Mr. Watson: The Power of Information Taskforce is making rapid progress and is on course to deliver the recommendations by the end of the year. Early success is demonstrated by the Show Us A Better Way competition—something *The Guardian* called the 'X-Factor of public services'—to find new and innovative uses of public sector information. Progress can be followed on their blog at:

www.showusabetterway.co.uk

Information Assurance

12. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what measurable improvements the Cabinet Office has recorded in regard to its responsibilities for information assurance. [224368]

Mr. Watson: On 25 June 2008 the Cabinet Office set out mandatory measures to improve data security across Government. I can state that central Government Departments have reported that the majority of these measures are in place and they are working to complete their delivery.

Voluntary Sector

13. **John Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to improve the operation and delivery of public services provided by the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [224369]

Kevin Brennan: Public funding to the third sector to deliver services has more than doubled from £5 billion to £11 billion since 1997. The Government set out their plan to improve public service delivery, in 2006, and we are making good progress on these commitments. This includes, providing training for public sector commissioners; supporting innovation through the Innovation Exchange; investing in capital development through Futurebuilders; and improving the sustainability of the sector by making three year funding the norm rather than the exception.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221602]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office commissions work from a range of organisations to help support its work across government including supporting the environment for a thriving third sector.

The Cabinet Office does not hold a central list of contractors for all projects commissioned and to compile one could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in his (i) Department and (ii) executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [220181]

Mr. Watson: The civil service is committed to reflecting the society we serve at all levels—clearly, this includes disabled people. The recently published "Promoting Equality, Valuing Diversity—A Strategy for the Civil Service" builds on what has already been achieved and sets out what the civil service wants to achieve in equality and diversity in employment over the next three to five years. The document is available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/news/2008/july/17_07_08_diversity.asp.

The following table shows the median earnings of disabled staff, broken down by full-time and part-time working patterns for all Departments and agencies. Further data on the disabled status of civil service staff are available on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422.

Median income by government department, disability status and working pattern; 30 September 2007[1, 2, 3]

	Full-time		*Part-time*[4]	
	Declared disabled	*Declared non-disabled*	*Declared Disabled*	*Declared non-disabled*
Attorney General's Departments				
Crown Prosecution Service	29,050	26,080	25,500	24,600
Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	[4]	21,390	0	0
Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers	0	22,700	0	0
Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office	27,530	27,500	0	26,420
Serious Fraud Office	24,570	29,390	0	25,440
Treasury Solicitor	24,600	43,460	[4]	54,350
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform				
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	26,230	28,360	26,380	23,800
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service	29,870	[4]	[4]	0
Companies House	17,430	17,430	17,430	17,430
Insolvency Service	[4]	[4]	0	0
Office of Fair Trading	23,710	31,960	0	46,320
Office of Gas and Electricity Market	[4]	38,720	0	32,320
Postal Services Commission	[4]	34,640	0	[4]
Cabinet Office				
Cabinet Office (excl. agencies)	25,680	27,810	[4]	24,440
Other Cabinet Office agencies				
Central Office of Information	32,260	36,000	[4]	37,700
National School of Government	[4]	26,990	[4]	20,260
Parliamentary Counsel Office	[4]	76,430	0	[4]
HM Treasury				
HM Treasury	24,830	28,800	[4]	26,980

Median income by government department, disability status and working pattern: 30 September 2007[1, 2, 7]

	Full-time		Part-time[3]	
	Declared disabled	Declared non-disabled	Declared Disabled	Declared non-disabled
HM Revenue and Customs				
HM Revenue and Customs	18,720	22,910	18,720	18,720
Valuation Office	22,010	22,780	15,770	18,260
Chancellor's other departments				
Debt Management Office	0	49,350	0	33,290
Government Actuary's Department	0	42,600	0	[4]—
National Savings and investments	[4]—	39,990	0	26,820
Office of Government Commerce	48,210	42,020	0	0
OGC buying Solutions	[4]—	26,920	0	21,690
Office for National Statistics[5]	22,980	22,980	17,280	17,350
Royal Mint	37,000	18,040	0	15,500
Charity Commission				
Charity Commission	22,020	25,400	21,670	22,020
Children, Schools and Families				
Department for Children, Schools and Families[6]	28,270	30,040	29,780	25,590
Innovation, Universities and Skills				
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills[6]	27,670	31,300	28,130	25,920
National Weights and Measures Laboratory	[4]—	33,260	0	22,490
UK Intellectual Property Office	0	23,210	0	17,430
Office for Standards In Education				
Office for Standards in Education	29,890	33,270	26,130	20,090
Communities and Local Government (excl. agencies)				
Department for Communities and Local Government	27,670	29,670	31,410	29,860
Fire Service College	[4]—	21,220	0	15,940
Ordnance Survey	25,000	25,010	[4]—	24,160
Planning Inspectorate	18,290	26,880	[4]—	45,040
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	0	29,980	0	[4]—

Median income by government department, disability status and working pattern: 30 September 2007[1, 2, 7]

	Full-time		Part-time[3]	
	Declared disabled	Declared non-disabled	Declared Disabled	Declared non-disabled
Culture, Media and Sport				
Department for Culture Media and Sport[6]	24,720	29,410	[4]—	30,880
Royal Parks	[4]—	28,140	0	[4]—
Defence				
Ministry of Defence	20,550	21,320	18,710	19,320
Royal Fleet Auxiliary	0	[4]—	0	[4]—
Army Base Repair Organisation	19,900	19,900	[4]—	15,470
Defence Aviation Repair Agency	23,100	23,100	[4]—	20,900
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	28,840	32,480	23,150	32,350
Met Office	26,960	28,180	[4]—	30,690
UK Hydrographic Office	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs				
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (excl. agencies)	27,420	28,900	21,890	28,840
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	19,620	24,400	[4]—	23,160
Central Science Laboratory	23,330	24,470	0	20,550
Government Decontamination Services	[4]—	25,800	0	18,410
Marine and Fisheries Agency	25,330	24,440	[4]—	14,920
Office of Water Services	[4]—	25,000	[4]—	23,090
Pesticides Safety Directorate	18,940	28,120	[4]—	28,620
Rural Payments Agency	19,260	21,190	18,690	19,260
Animal Health	18,550	23,010	18,120	23,780
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	19,080	22,380	18,530	20,260
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	[4]—	28,520	[4]—	22,530
Export Credits Guarantee Department				
Export Credit Guarantee Department	27,400	33,300	[4]—	31,650
Foreign and Commonwealth Office				
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (excl agencies)	25,610	29,660	16,910	26,630

Median income by government department, disability status and working pattern; 30 September 2007[1, 2, 7]

	Full-time		Part-time[3]	
	Declared disabled	Declared non-disabled	Declared Disabled	Declared non-disabled
Wilton Park Executive Agency	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Health				
Department of Health (excl agencies)[6]	35,360	39,240	30,670	37,400
Food Standards Agency	26,820	29,150	[4]—	29,930
Meat Hygiene Service	23,840	21,820	[4]—	21,820
Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	41,280	33,340	[4]—	38,230
National Healthcare Purchasing and Supplies	[4]—	34,840	[4]—	32,550
NHS Business Services Authority (CM Service only)	15,950	15,950	[4]—	15,950
Home Office				
Home Office (excl agencies)[6]	21,730	32,480	15,860	20,890
Assets Recovery Agency	[4]—	30,310	0	23,470
Border and Immigration Agency	24,680	24,680	20,190	19,750
Criminal Records Bureau	15,470	19,140	[4]—	18,920
Identity and Passport Service	17,270	15,480	15,300	13,720
Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism	[4]—	35,960	0	42,890
Justice				
Ministry of Justice (excl. agencies)	26,810	30,200	28,370	28,840
HM Courts Service	18,480	18,870	16,790	16,980
Land Registry	20,240	22,370	20,240	20,760
National Archives	23,110	23,740	[4]—	16,590
Public Guardianship Office	21,080	23,760	[4]—	20,810
Tribunals Service	17,500	17,680	16,980	17,180
Scotland Office	0	21,800	0	0
Wales Office	[4]—	28,440	0	[4]—
Public Sector Prison Service	23,870	22,670	16,980	17,200
International Development				
Department for International Development	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northern Ireland Office				
Northern Ireland Office	[4]—	27,890	[4]—	15,330

Median income by government department, disability status and working pattern; 30 September 2007[1, 2, 7]

	Full-time		Part-time[3]	
	Declared disabled	Declared non-disabled	Declared Disabled	Declared non-disabled
Security and Intelligence Services				
Security and Intelligence Services	25,490	28,980	24,500	25,240
Transport				
Department for Transport (excl agencies)[6]	27,660	31,330	[4]—	29,310
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	17,010	17,010	16,460	17,010
Driving Standards Agency	22,590	23,610	18,370	19,790
Government Car and Despatch Agency	28,020	24,440	0	[4]—
Highways Agency	22,110	20,590	20,320	20,310
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Office of Rail Regulation	26,820	40,050	[4]—	38,830
Vehicle Certification Agency	[4]—	33,260	[4]—	18,890
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	22,010	25,360	[4]—	19,560
Work and Pensions				
DWP Corporate Services	26,920	27,890	25,750	24,410
DWP Shared Services	17,250	15,880	17,250	17,250
Child Support Agency	17,250	15,300	17,250	15,300
Disability and Carers Service	17,600	17,250	17,250	17,250
Job Centre Plus	20,310	18,980	19,040	17,600
Pension Service	17,600	16,780	17,250	17,250
The Health and Safety Executive	23,660	31,310	30,230	24,500
The Rent Service	24,750	23,310	0	18,710
Scottish Government				
Scottish Government (excl agencies)	27,320	22,860	26,110	19,150
Communities Scotland	34,120	24,940	34,120	24,940
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	17,570	[4]—	0	[4]—
Courts Group	[4]—	[4]—	0	0
Fisheries Research Services	24,910	23,710	23,150	[4]—
General Register Scotland	23,710	18,120	16,610	12,900
HM Inspectorate of Education	45,350	32,250	17,000	[4]—
Historic Scotland	13,480	18,730	13,180	14,860
Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland	16,610	14,650	[4]—	[4]—
National Archive for Scotland	24,810	20,730	18,960	[4]—

Median income by government department, disability status and working pattern, 30 September 2007[1,2,7]

	Full-time		Part-time[3]	
	Declared disabled	Declared non-disabled	Declared Disabled	Declared non-disabled
Office of Accountant in Bankruptcy	15,960	19,240	[4]—	16,610
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator	28,520	20,360	0	0
Registers of Scotland	16,650	20,110	21,430	21,870
Scottish Agricultural Scientific Agency	25,560	15,740	24,910	[4]—
Scottish Buildings Standards Agency	32,250	[4]—	[4]—	0
Scottish Court Service	16,390	16,990	15,670	15,570
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency	26,780	21,040	14,720	[4]—
Scottish Prison Service	25,940	25,940	19,800	25,690
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	16,610	14,690	16,610	16,610
Social Work Inspection Agency	23,710	45,350	22,030	[4]—
Student Awards Agency	16,610	15,820	16,610	[4]—
Transport Scotland	32,250	25,020	29,450	[4]—
Welsh Assembly				
Welsh Assembly Government	22,200	25,340	22,200	22,200
ESTYN	[4]—	50,480	[4]—	18,910

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Table does not include individuals who did not declare a disability status.
[3] Salaries of part-time staff are reported as a full-time equivalent figure.
[4] Numbers less than five.
[5] Figures for the Office for National Statistics exclude field staff who were not civil servants at the reference date.
[6] Includes government office for the regions employees.
[7] Due to the self-reporting nature of disability and the process by which part time salaries are up-rated in order that they are comparable to full-time staff salaries, care should be exercised when drawing conclusions based on these statistics.
Source:
Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

Further data on the disabled status of civil service staff are available on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422.

Higher Civil Servants: Manpower

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what change there has been in the number of *(a)* women, *(b)* black and minority ethnic people and *(c)* people with disabilities holding senior Civil Service posts since 1997. [223727]

Mr. Watson: The following table sets out the changes in numbers of senior civil servants between 1997 and 2007 (the date for which latest figures are available).

Number of SCS by diversity group

	April 1997	October 2007	Change
Women in the SCS	530	1,340	+810
SCS from black and minority ethnic groups	28	123	+95
SCS with disabilities	28	112	+84

Source:
SCS Database, Cabinet Office

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings Ministers and officials in her Department have had with telecommunications and internet service providers on the establishment of a national database to store telecommunications and internet traffic data and connected information. [222645]

Mr. Coaker: Home Office officials have had a number of meetings with telecommunications and Internet Service Providers to inform the Government's consideration of work to modernise our national interception capabilities in the light of changes to communications technology.

Our ability to lawfully intercept communications and obtain communications data is critical to combating the threat posed by terrorism and in tackling serious and organised crime such as child sex abuse, kidnap, murder and drug related crime.

Proposals are still under development, and when finalised will be presented to Parliament.

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [222037]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is not a listed public authority for the purposes of intrusive surveillance and therefore does not use it. However, the Home Office (UK Border Agency) may acquire communications data, use directed surveillance and deploy covert human intelligence sources in connection with its work. Figures on public authority use of covert techniques controlled by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') are published annually by the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner who each have particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the House Library on 22 July. The figures provided in the reports are not broken down by individual public authority use of specific covert technique as, depending on the particular technique and authority using it, this could either reveal sensitivities or be misleading. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant Commissioner.

Dyfed-Powys Police Authority: Manpower

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian staff were employed by Dyfed-Powys police authority in each year since 2001. [221916]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the following table.

Dyfed-Powys police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] as at 31 March 2001 to 31 March 2008

	Number
2001	1,055
2002	1,132
2003[3]	1,149
2004[3]	1,160
2005[3]	1,174
2006[3]	1,182
2007[3]	1,177
2008[3]	1,181

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Dyfed-Powys police staff strength[1] (FTE)[2] as at 31 March 2001 to 31 March 2008

	Number
2001	401
2002	459
2003[3]	502
2004[3]	523
2005[3]	531
2006[3]	566
2007[3]	606
2008[3]	625

[1] Civilian staff have been referred to as police staff since March 2003. Figures exclude traffic wardens, police community support officers and designated officers (s.38).
[2] Total strength is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between these totals and the totals in other tables. Figures exclude those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity unless otherwise stated.
[3] Strength figures as at 31 March 2003 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

Emergency Calls: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hoax 999 calls were answered by the Metropolitan Police in the last period for which figures are available. [222762]

Mr. Coaker: This information is a matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Office of the Surveillance Commissioners

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Office of the Surveillance Commissioners is a public authority for the purposes of the *(a)* Freedom of Information Act 2000 and *(b)* Environmental Information Regulations 2004. [222927]

Mr. Coaker: The Office of Surveillance Commissioners is not a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Information about their independent oversight role can be found in their published annual reports or on their website.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics games; how many of those work on (i) project management, (ii) legacy planning, (iii) project oversight and (iv) financial oversight; and what plans she has for future staffing levels in each case. [221866]

Mr. Coaker: There are currently 12 members of the Home Office engaged full-time on aspects of development of and planning for the London 2012 games. Roles are not specifically project based. Other staff in the Home Office and its agencies, such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency, are involved in Olympic-related projects as part of their wider duties as required.

There are currently 111 staff working in the multi-agency Olympic Security Directorate. 97 of these staff are engaged in predominantly project and programme roles which involve both financial oversight and legacy planning.

Staffing numbers in both the Home Office and the Olympic Security Directorate will fluctuate according to the demands of the programme and are kept under constant review.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of administration was in each police force in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years; and how many people were employed to carry out this work in each police force in each year. [224074]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The information requested on police administration costs is not held centrally. Details of total revenue and capital grants are held but not details of expenditure.

The information requested on the number of people employed to carry out administration are not held centrally. The numbers of police staff are given in the following table.

Police staff are individuals who are employed by the police service to support the service and ensure it runs efficiently and effectively, working in partnership with those in uniform.

Police staff strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1999 to 31 March 2008

Police force	1999[3]	2000	2001[4]	2002	2003[3]	2004[3]	2005[3]	2006[3]	2007[3,5]	2008[3]
Avon and Somerset	1,424	1,436	1,452	1,611	1,785	2,004	2,005	2,080	2,208	2,289
Bedfordshire	483	490	491	524	595	668	713	759	744	724
Cambridgeshire	586	503	614	733	786	838	832	898	922	892

Police staff strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1999 to 31 March 2008

Police force	*1999[3]*	*2000*	*2001[4]*	*2002*	*2003[5]*	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5,6]*	*2008[5]*
Cheshire	785	823	833	884	1,008	1,149	1,137	1,170	1,262	1,406
Cleveland	552	595	586	626	694	764	748	697	711	701
Cumbria	442	469	588	631	676	705	730	732	743	773
Derbyshire	818	826	875	953	1,061	1,131	1,165	1,109	1,204	1,266
Devon and Cornwall	1,215	1,343	1,453	1,639	1,834	1,926	2,034	2,082	2,046	2,147
Dorset	702	686	682	741	793	823	881	918	973	959
Durham	559	590	566	660	602	600	736	733	762	816
Essex	1,273	1,348	1,447	1,571	1,682	1,876	1,968	1,968	1,918	1,986
Gloucestershire	504	484	506	545	590	642	663	694	718	700
Greater Manchester	2,623	2,822	2,858	3,135	3,173	3,452	3,303	3,352	3,369	3,534
Hampshire	1,381	1,443	1,482	1,597	1,720	1,865	1,965	2,099	2,354	2,430
Hertfordshire	835	890	935	1,121	1,299	1,408	1,414	1,489	1,501	1,490
Humberside	840	840	808	816	880	979	1,034	1,097	1,213	1,313
Kent	1,582	1,647	1,796	1,958	2,095	2,267	2,228	2,292	2,285	2,337
Lancashire	1,198	1,422	1,369	1,442	1,489	1,683	1,715	1,764	1,802	1,927
Leicestershire	802	805	806	816	934	1,007	1,033	1,079	1,141	1,142
Lincolnshire	517	516	561	600	641	657	678	677	720	760
London, City of	314	285	233	247	268	285	298	314	319	299
Merseyside	1,356	1,458	1,418	1,532	1,752	1,855	2,126	2,207	2,173	2,203
Metropolitan Police	11,257	10,605	10,040	10,459	11,358	12,595	13,561	13,836	14,016	14,085
Norfolk	648	655	694	819	924	973	984	1,064	1,059	1,053
Northamptonshire	587	599	694	742	812	874	973	1,010	1,009	1,024
Northumbria	1,443	1,417	1,416	1,403	1,457	1,495	1,491	1,665	1,711	1,863
North Yorkshire	541	492	591	743	723	864	928	1,039	1,128	1,079
Nottinghamshire	1,039	1,024	1,039	1,087	1,180	1,285	1,318	1,385	1,370	1,372
South Yorkshire	1,273	1,391	1,312	1,352	1,510	1,583	1,729	1,853	1,978	2,038
Staffordshire	1,004	858	935	1,030	1,146	1,255	1,325	1,305	1,287	1,309
Suffolk	594	600	621	692	713	789	813	853	847	814
Surrey	733	762	897	1,043	1,245	1,352	1,472	1,541	1,680	1,808
Sussex	1,393	1,328	1,454	1,507	1,578	1,811	1,950	1,994	1,994	1,974
Thames Valley	1,799	1,786	1,891	2,061	2,412	2,620	2,611	2,782	2,756	2,772
Warwickshire	406	394	412	459	503	525	590	609	624	629
West Mercia	975	1,043	1,095	1,116	1,233	1,391	1,492	1,563	1,618	1,647
West Midlands	2,652	2,695	2,819	3,007	3,012	3,100	3,143	3,300	3,348	3,436
West Yorkshire	2,216	2,199	2,228	2,364	2,538	2,776	3,016	3,183	3,077	3,247
Wiltshire	555	563	622	649	703	764	811	851	859	879
Dyfed-Powys	341	359	401	459	502	523	531	566	606	625
Gwent	487	498	537	570	607	629	683	749	805	855
North Wales	508	519	498	645	703	849	867	882	759	774
South Wales	1,223	1,081	1,270	1,435	1,366	1,453	1,510	1,543	1,559	1,575
NCS	275	352	367	405	524	603	0	779	—	—
NCIS[6]	291	287	398	482	—	—	0	1	—	—
Total England and Wales	53,031	53,227	54,588	58,909	63,105	68,693	71,209	74,563	75,178	76,948

[1] Civilian staff have been referred to as police staff since March 2003. Figures exclude traffic wardens, police community support officers and designated officers (s.38).

[2] Total strength is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between these totals and the totals in other tables. Figures exclude those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity unless otherwise stated.

[3] The National Crime Intelligence Service (NCIS) and the National Crime Squad (NCS) were established and set up as independent bodies by the Police Act 1997 effective as of 1 April 1998. Following the launch of the Serious Organised Crime Squad (SOCA) on 1 April 2006, strength totals will no longer include details of NCS or NCIS staff.

[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.

[5] Strength figures as at 31 March 2003 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

[6] NCIS were unable to provide figures as at 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2004.

Police: Per Capita Costs

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was allocated per head of population to each police authority in Wales in 2007-08; and how much is planned for 2008-09. [221917]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Welsh Police Authority Government Revenue Grant Allocations 2007-08 and 2008-09

	2007-08		2008-09	
	Total Revenue grant[1] (£ million)	Resident population (million)	Total Revenue grant[1] (£ million)	Resident population (million)
Dyfed-Powys	65.2	0.51	70.9	0.51
Gwent	88.4	0.56	94.5	0.57
North Wales	96.9	0.68	100.5	0.68
South Wales	206.7	1.23	212.3	1.23

[1] Total Revenue Grant includes formula grant and all specific grants.

Source:
Population: Office of National Statistics, population projections
Grants: Home Office for general grant and specific grants, WAG for revenue support grant and national non domestic rates.

Police: Procurement

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies her Department has undertaken into police procurement policies and practices since 2005. [223710]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has undertaken no such studies since 2005. Earlier this year the Association of Chief Police Officers agreed a procurement strategy for the years to 2011. The strategy recognises that effective procurement enables the realisation of efficiency benefits and achievement of best value.

Police: Rural Areas

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines her Department has issued on back-up response times for police in rural areas in the last three years. [223821]

Mr. Coaker: No guidelines have been issued on back-up response times for police in rural areas in the last three years, as this is an operational deployment issue for Chief Officers.

Powers of Entry: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what powers of entry are exercisable by representatives of a local authority under *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation; [222693]

(2) what reasons the PDF files of the documents relating to the survey of powers of entry published on the Home Office operational policing website in July 2008 did not allow printing or copying. [222695]

Mr. Coaker: The table placed in the House Library sets out the available information in relation to primary legislation. The information provided is subject to verification in the light of the work being carried out on the review of powers of entry referred to in an earlier response given to the hon. Member by my right hon. Friend (Mr. McNulty) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 971W. Work to develop a complete list of powers of entry under secondary legislation is currently under way. This will be published in due course as part of the review of powers of entry.

The PDF files were placed in error on the website with the printing and copying restrictions. The restrictions were removed as soon as it was brought to our attention.

Rape

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what proportion of rapes reported to the police which *(a)* involved and *(b)* did not involve excess alcohol use on the part of the victim or perpetrator resulted in (i) conviction for rape or sexual assault and (ii) pleas of guilty to rape or sexual assault in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [223513]

(2) how many and what proportion of rapes reported to the police which *(a)* involved and *(b)* did not involve excess alcohol use on the part of the victim or perpetrator resulted in a prosecution progressing to trial in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [223514]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 11 September 2008]*: The data requested are not recorded.

Information on recorded crime and court proceedings held by the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office does not identify whether alcohol was involved in an offence.

Rape: Convictions

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the reasons for the variations in rape conviction rates across areas of England and Wales; and what progress has been made by the Rape Performance Group in analysing this issue. [225143]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office published research in July 2007 (Feist et al, Investigating and Detecting Recorded Offences of Rape) which considered the influence of different factors on levels of attrition in rape cases. The Cross CJS Rape Performance Group has been established specifically to analyse the performance of police and CPS areas in relation to the investigation and prosecution of rape against a range of indicators, and reports to Ministers through the National Criminal Justice Board.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* sergeants, *(b)* constables and *(c)* police community support officers in Safer Neighbourhood Teams in London who have remained in their post for less than 12 months since the teams were established; and if she will make a statement; [221761]

(2) how many vacancies there were for *(a)* sergeants, *(b)* constables and *(c)* police community support officers in Safer Neighbourhood teams in each London borough in the latest period for which figures are available; [221763]

(3) what estimate she has made of the typical length of service of *(a)* sergeants, *(b)* constables and *(c)* police community support officers in Safer Neighbourhood Teams in London. [221762]

Mr. Coaker: Data on length of service and vacancies in Safer Neighbourhood Teams are not collected centrally. The composition of Safer Neighbourhood Teams across London is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Street Trading: Licensing

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost of a pedlar's certificate in each local police authority is; and what the cost to each police authority of issuing a pedlar's certificate is; [222908]

(2) when the cost of a pedlar's certificate was last reviewed; and by whom; [222909]

(3) how many successful prosecutions of persons illegally trading as pedlars there were in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [222910]

Mr. Coaker: The statutory fee of £12.25 for a pedlar's certificate under section 5(3) of the Pedlars Act 1871 was last changed with effect from 3 February 1986 (by the Pedlars' Certificates (Variation of Fee) Order 1985/2027).

Information on the cost to police authorities of issuing pedlars' certificates is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Data showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts of offences under the Pedlars Act 1871, broken down by police force area, in England and Wales, 2002 to 2006 are in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under the Pedlars Act 1871, broken down by police force area, England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[1,2]

Force	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
City of London	—	—	1	—	—
Cleveland	3	—	1	1	—
Derbyshire	8	10	11	12	16
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	1	—	1
Dorset	2	—	1	—	—
Durham	2	—	—	—	—
Essex	2	1	—	5	—
Gloucestershire	1	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	5	—	—
Hampshire	2	3	11	10	8
Hertfordshire	1	—	—	2	2
Humberside	1	—	—	—	1
Kent	2	7	29	29	7
Lancashire	—	1	—	—	—
Leicestershire	—	3	2	—	1
Lincolnshire	1	3	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	1	1	1	2
Metropolitan Police	—	1	3	—	—
Norfolk	—	2	2	10	1
North Yorkshire	9	5	2	—	—
Northumbria	3	3	3	4	2
Nottinghamshire	4	11	4	7	2
South Yorkshire	3	1	1	1	2
Staffordshire	—	1	—	—	—
Suffolk	1	2	1	2	1
Surrey	—	3	2	4	—
Sussex	1	—	2	5	7
Thames Valley	—	1	18	—	3
Warwickshire	—	1	—	—	—
West Mercia	1	—	1	1	4
West Midlands	1	2	1	—	—
West Yorkshire	2	1	1	—	1
Wiltshire	2	4	2	—	2
Dyfed-Powys	1	1	1	—	10
Gwent	—	—	—	—	1
North Wales	1	—	—	—	—
South Wales	1	3	—	—	—
England and Wales	55	71	107	94	74

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
E and A Unit—OCJR, Ministry of Justice

Surveillance: Local Authorities

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Office of the Surveillance Commissioners has given to local authorities on the level of authorisation of requests to conduct surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; [222926]

(2) what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner has given to local authorities on the proportionate and necessary use of surveillance powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; [222948]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effect on local authorities of the transposition and implementation of the Data Retention Directive; [222980]

(4) what guidance her Office has issued on each aspect of surveillance and interception under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [222981]

Mr. Coaker: The level of authorisation for directed surveillance by local authorities is set out in statutory instrument 2003 No.3171: the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources) Order 2003.

No specific guidance has been given to local authorities on the proportionate and necessary use of surveillance powers, but guidance is contained in the statutory Code of Practice for Covert Surveillance.

No assessment has been made of the effect on local authorities of the transposition and implementation of the Data Retention Directive 2006/24/EC. However, the Directive requires communications service providers to retain communications data to ensure that public authorities, including local authorities, can continue to have access under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

The Home Office has published statutory codes of practice under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 on Covert Surveillance; the Interception of Communications; Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data; and Covert Human Intelligence Sources. Separately, the National Policing Improvement Agency has issued "Guidance on the Lawful and Effective use of Covert Techniques" and the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Sources (LACORS) has also provided advice to local authorities.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requirements there are on local authorities to compile a central register of surveillance activity. [223960]

Mr. Coaker: Where local authorities conduct directed surveillance within the meaning of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 they are required to maintain a record of the authorisation. This will be made available for inspection as appropriate by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners, but there is no central register of local authorities' surveillance activity.

Telecommunications: Databases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has *(a)* spent and *(b)* allocated to spend on consultancy and related work in connection with the establishment of a national database to store telecommunications and internet traffic data and connected information. [222646]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have been considering options for modernising our national interception capabilities in the light of changes to communications technology.

Our ability to lawfully intercept communications and obtain communications data is critical to combating the threat posed by terrorism and in tackling serious and organised crime such as child sex abuse, kidnap, murder and drug related crime.

The Government have not yet decided on a definitive proposal on how to modernise these capabilities. Consideration of options is under way.

When the Government do bring forward policy proposals, they will be notified to Parliament in the proper way, with associated information on financial implications.

Terrorism: Pakistan

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* Hindu Forum of Britain and *(b)* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, on the funding of terrorist groups in Pakistan by bodies in Britain; and if she will make a statement; [224152]

(2) what representations she has received on the diversion of British charities' funding to Pakistan to terrorist groups; and if she will make a statement; [224153]

Mr. Coaker: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has had no recent discussions with my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on this subject. However, the Hindu Forum of Britain did write to my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 27 July outlining their concerns that money was being diverted from British charities to terrorist groups. My predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, East (Mr. McNulty), wrote back to the organisation on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 8 September advising them that it is an operational matter for the police to investigate allegations that money is being raised or used for terrorist purposes. The Charity Commission for England and Wales is able to co-operate fully with the police and other agencies, and to investigate any concerns that arise in such cases as an immediate priority.

Any evidence the Hindu Forum of Britain might have to support their concerns should be forwarded to the police and the Charity Commission.

Vetting

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether employees of local authorities will be responsible for paying the fee for Independent Safeguarding Authority clearance. [224758]

Meg Hillier: The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 makes a fee payable on application for registration with the new Vetting and Barring Scheme. The fee will normally be payable by the applicant but it will be open to employers to pay the fee on behalf of their employees, should they choose to do so. Checks for unpaid volunteers will be free of charge.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether local authority workers who have been cleared by the Criminal Records Bureau must apply for clearance under the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [224760]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau provides a check on criminal records information for eligible employees and volunteers. The new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) will consider whether individuals are suitable for work with children or vulnerable adults, and will have the power to bar those considered unsuitable. Where local authority or other workers are providing regulated or controlled activities as defined under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, they will need to apply to be registered with the ISA, in addition to any CRB check. It will normally be possible to obtain a CRB check at the same time as the initial application to the ISA.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academies plan to open in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2011 and *(d)* 2012; and if he will make a statement. [224837]

Jim Knight: There are currently 51 projects in feasibility or implementation for opening in September 2009, 18 for 2010, four for 2011 and one for 2012. A list of these projects is set out. As part of the National Challenge there is now funding for 80 Academies to open in 2009 and 100 in 2010.

PROJECT

2009

Bedfordshire 1, The Northfields Technology College

Bexley 2, Haberdashers' Crayford Academy, Barnes Cray Primary School

Birmingham 1, Heartlands Academy, Heartlands High School

Birmingham 3, College High Academy, The College High Specialist Arts School

Birmingham 6, Shenley Court, Shenley Court Specialist Arts College and Sixth Form Centre

Birmingham 8, St Albans Academy, St Alban's CE Specialist Engineering College

Bradford 3, The Rhodesway Academy, Rhodesway School

Bradford 5, Wyke Manor School

Brent 3, John Kelly Boys Technology College

Brent 4, John Kelly Girls Technology College

Bristol 6, Bristol Metropolitan Academy, Bristol Metropolitan College

Buckinghamshire 1, Quarrendon School

Cheshire 1, North Area Academy

Cumbria 3, The Alfred Barrow School and Thomcliffe School, Parkview

Derby 2, Sinfin Community School

Dudley 3, Castle High School and Visual Arts College

Enfield 3 - Oasis Academy, Albany

Hertfordshire 2, Francis Combe School and Community College

Kent 11, Tunbridge Wells High School

Lancashire 3, Fulwood H.S. and Arts College, Tulketh Community Sports College (PFI), Fulwood

Leeds 2, South Leeds High School

Leeds 4, Intake High School

Manchester 4a, Creative and Media Academy (Boys), North Manchester High School for Boys

Manchester 4b, Creative and Media Academy (Girls), North Manchester High School for Girls

Manchester 6, Manchester Enterprise Academy, Parklands High School

Medway 1

Northumberland 2, Hirst Academy, Hirst High School

Nottingham 4, Nottingham Academy, Elliott Durham School and Greenwood Dale School

Sheffield 3, Parkwood High School

South Gloucestershire 2, The Ridings High School

South Gloucestershire 3, King Edmund Community School

Walsall 2, Darlaston Community Science College

West Sussex 1, The Littlehampton Community School

West Sussex 4, Kings Manor Community College

Wirral 1, Birkenhead High School

Tameside 2, Droylsden Academy, Littlemoss High for Boys and Droylsden School

Essex 1, East Basildon Academies, Chalvedon School and Barstable School

Essex 2, East Basildon Academies, Chalvedon School and Barstable School

Hackney 4, City of London KPMG Academy, Homerton College of Technology

Kensington and Chelsea 1, The Chelsea Science Academy, (New School)

Kent 4, Isle of Sheppey, Minster College, St. Georges CofE Middle, Danley Middle, Cheyne Middle

Kingston upon Hull 1, Sirius Academy, Pickering High School Sports College

Milton Keynes 1, Milton Keynes Academy, Sir Frank Markham Community School

Northumberland 1, Bede Academy, Primary - South Beach First School; Secondary - New School

Nottingham 2, Nottingham Bulwell Academy, The River Leen School and Henry Mellish Comprehensive School

Nottingham 3 - Nottingham University Samworth Academy

Southwark 7 - Harris Boys Academy East Dulwich

Sunderland 2, Castle View Enterprise Academy, Castle View School

Sunderland 3, Red House Academy, Hylton Red House School

West Sussex 3, TBC, Boundstone Community College

Wiltshire 1, Wellington Academy, Castledown School

2010

Bedfordshire 2, John Bunyan Upper School

Birmingham 5, Sheldon Heath Community Arts College

Brighton and Hove 1, Falmer Academy, Falmer High School

Calderdale 1, Holy Trinity CofE Senior School

Coventry 2, Swanswell, Sidney Stringer School

Derbyshire 1, Shirebrook Academy, Shirebrook School

Hackney 5, Hackney Skinners Academy, The Skinners' Company School for Girls

Hammersmith and Fulham 2, Hammersmith and Fulham Academy, New Academy Havering 1 - Kings Wood

Manchester 2, Manchester Communications Academy

Manchester 3, East Manchester Academy

Manchester 5, The Co-operative Academy, Plant Hill High School

Manchester 7, Health Academy, Brookway High School and Sports College

Oldham 1, Oasis Oldham Academy, Kaskenmoor School and South Chadderton School

Oldham 2, Two Hills Academy, Counthill School and Breeze Hill School

Oldham 3, The Grange Academy, Grange School

Staffordshire 1, JCB Academy, New School

Staffordshire 2

2011

Birmingham 2, Eastside Academy

Camden 1 - UCL Camden Academy

Gloucester 1, Cheltenham Academy, Cheltenham Kingsmead and St. Benedict's Catholic School

St. Helens 1, Newton Academy, St. Aelred's Catholic Technology College and Newton-le-Willows High School

2012

Redbridge 1, TBC, New School

Academies: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the proportion of children known to be eligible for free school meals in each academy and its predecessor school in each year since 2000-01; and if he will make a statement. [225059]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Children: Advertising

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to regulate advertising aimed at children. [222678]

Jim Knight: All commercial broadcasters are subject to statutory standards codes governing broadcast advertising which they must comply with as a condition of their licence. Non-broadcast advertising in the UK is strictly controlled through industry self-regulation, administered by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA).

Both the broadcast and non-broadcast advertising codes contain strict rules relating specifically to general children's advertising as well as specific rules preventing the promotion of products such as alcohol and cigarettes, as well as restricting food promotion to children.

Changes introduced by Ofcom in February 2007 strengthened the rules for broadcast advertising of foods high in fat, salt and sugar—which may not be advertised in or adjacent to programmes commissioned for, principally directed at or likely to appeal particularly to audiences below the age of 16. Ofcom also set out new rules on the content of advertisements targeted at primary school children. These rules ban the use of celebrities and characters licensed from third-parties (such as cartoons), promotional claims (such as free gifts) and health or nutrition claims.

Non-broadcast advertising rules, including on the internet, were also strengthened in 2007.

The new rules protect all children, defined as persons under 16. In addition, ASA/Committee of Advertising Practice have placed tougher restrictions on food or drink product adverts that are directly targeted at primary school or pre-school children through their content.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to assess the effect of advertising on children. [222679]

Jim Knight: This Government launched an independent assessment of the impact of the commercial world, with open calls for evidence, on 7 April 2008. The assessment is examining children's commercial world in the broadest sense, including: products; commercial messages; shopping; the market for children's good and services; and any further involvement that children may have. The assessment is not restricted to advertising.

The assessment is being led by Professor David Buckingham—Professor of Education at the Institute of Education, London university. He is the founder and director of the Centre for the Study of Children, Youth and Media. The assessment panel is made up of leading experts from a range of disciplines.

We think it is important that we reach a consensus as to what is changing for children with regard to the commercial world; how those changes impact on children, both positive and negative, and what children and parents really think.

This assessment will report back to DCSF and DCMS in spring 2009.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on salaries for press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its NDPBs and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [224548]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows.

(a) The Department for Children, Schools and Families was established in June 2007 and as a result we are only able to provide information from June 2007 to March 2008. The salary cost for employing press officers in the Department was £906,462 and the cost of employing communications officers was £2,582,579.

(b) The Department does not have any agencies.

(c) We do not hold costs for our non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets were not achieved by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [224811]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department published its autumn performance report on 7 December 2007 and copies are available in the House Library (Cm 7279). The autumn performance report shows assessments of progress against my Department's Spending Review public service agreement (PSA) targets. Annex B contains summary tables showing final assessments for PSA targets from 1998. The 2008 departmental report (Cm7391) published on 19 May 2008 included latest assessments of progress against Spending Review 2004 PSA targets and the 2008 autumn performance report due to be published later this year will include final assessments for those Spending Review 2004 PSA targets which have now come to an end.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a list of the *(a)* targets and *(b)* quantifiable aims which his Department is committed to meeting. [224925]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department published its Children's Plan on 11 December 2007 which set out the vision for children and children's services, our delivery plans for the next three years and put those in the context of our longer term ambitions for improving children and young people's lives. The Department leads on five cross-governmental PSAs for children and young people which were announced in CSR07. They are:

PSA 10: Raise the educational achievement of all children and young people;

PSA 11: Narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers;

PSA 12: Improve the health and well-being of children and young people;

PSA 13: Improve children and young people's safety; and

PSA 14: Increase the number of children and young people on the path to success.

A series of indicators underpin each PSA, a number of which make up part of the local government National Indicator Set. All the indicators are brought together through the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes framework. The 2008 autumn performance report due to be published later in the year, will for the first time, include reporting against the 2007 comprehensive spending review PSAs which the Department leads on. PSA Delivery Agreements are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/psa/pbr_csr07_psaopportunity.cfm

Grammar Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* legislative changes and *(b)* department approval would be needed to open a new grammar school; and if he will make a statement. [224666]

Jim Knight: The law prohibits the introduction of any new selection by ability. We intend no change to this. Local parents can decide whether each existing grammar school continues, and ballot accordingly.

Grammar Schools: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of pupils attending grammar schools was known to be eligible for free school meals in *(a)* 1978, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and if he will make a statement; [224672]

(2) what proportion of pupils was entitled to free school meals in *(a)* grammar schools, *(b)* academies and *(c)* all other maintained schools in each year from 1997 to 2008; and if he will make a statement. [224674]

Jim Knight: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Head Teachers: Temporary Employment

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in Yorkshire and the Humber have temporary headteachers; and if he will make a statement. [223819]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

In January 2008, there were 40 head teacher posts in Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region that were either vacant or temporarily filled. In England, there were 550.

Posts were counted where there is no incumbent who is expected to return to the post, whether or not it is filled or on a temporary basis, whether or not advertised or an appointment has been made and not yet taken up.

Source:

The source of this information is the Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618 g.

Head Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many headteachers between the ages of 55 and 60 years there are in maintained schools in each local authority. [224798]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Information for the proportion of full-time heads employed in local authority maintained schools in England by age group is available from the Departments website (table D4) at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/Addition_D_DOU.xls

Joint Advisory Council for Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the remit of the Joint Advisory Council for Qualifications will be; and if he will make a statement; [225118]

(2) whom he expects to appoint as the *(a)* chair and *(b)* chief executive of the Joint Advisory Council for Qualifications; and if he will make a statement; [225119]

(3) when he expects the Joint Advisory Council for Qualifications to be in operation; and if he will make a statement; [225120]

(4) where the Joint Advisory Council for Qualifications will be based; and if he will make a statement. [225121]

Jim Knight: The remit of the Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval (JACQA) is to give advice to the Secretary of State on which 14-19 qualifications should be publicly funded, in line with the policy set out in the 14-19 qualifications strategy, which we published in March this year. We will publish a formal remit for the Committee in advance of its first meeting, which we expect to take place in December this year.

The Committee will be co-chaired by and jointly responsible to the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). These organisations will also provide a joint secretariat to the Committee. The secretariat is currently considering the logistical arrangements for the Committee's inaugural meeting. The Committee will not exist on a statutory basis, and will not have any executive or decision-making powers. It will therefore not have a chief executive officer.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations were received by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and *(c)* the National Assessment Agency on the arrangements for administration and marking of the key stage tests for 2008 in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007; and if he will make a statement. [221790]

Jim Knight: The Department received correspondence in 2006 and 2007 about aspects of the national curriculum tests but nothing specific to the administration and

marking of Key Stage tests for 2008. Ministers meet with Teachers' Unions on a regular basis, where national curriculum tests will feature on the agenda.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of National Curriculum tests. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests and manages the delivery contract, on QCA's behalf. In 2006, NAA undertook a procurement exercise and received representations from prospective contractors. In both 2006 and 2007 the NAA received representations from schools, local authorities, parents and our social partners on a variety of matters about national curriculum tests.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many prospective markers for *(a)* key stage two and *(b)* key stage three failed the tests for marking quality at the (i) standardisation stage and (ii) monitoring stage in (A) science, (B) mathematics and (C) English in each year from 2005 to 2008; and if he will make a statement; [221791]

(2) how many markers were employed to mark the key stage *(a)* two and *(b)* three tests in (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) science in (A) 2006, (B) 2007 and (C) 2008; and if he will make a statement. [221792]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of national curriculum tests. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests and manages the delivery contract, on QCA's behalf. David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 4 October 2008:

The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, has asked me to write to you about your recent questions (221791 & 221792)

Question 221791 To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many prospective key stage markers for (a) key stage two and (b) key stage three failed the tests for marking quality at the (i) standardisation stage and (ii) monitoring stage in (A) science, (B) mathematics and (C) English in each year from 2005 to 2008; and if he will make a statement.

Please find the information you require in the tables below:

	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. failed standardisation KS2 E	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	9
No. failed standardisation KS2 M	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0
No. failed standardisation KS2 S	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6
No. failed standardisation KS3 R	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	21
No. failed standardisation KS3 W	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	13
No. failed standardisation KS3 M	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1
No. failed standardisation KS3 S	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	11

[1] This information was not requested in the Edexcel contract

No. failed during marking (stopped)	2006	2007	2008
No. stopped KS2 E	22	3	[1]5 (9)
No. stopped KS2 M	16	30	[1]5 (9)
No. stopped KS2 S	14	11	[1]20 (24)
No. stopped KS3 R	37	25	[1]35 (51)
No. stopped KS3 W	51	27	[1]50 (65)
No. stopped KS3 M	70	21	[1]8 (13)
No. stopped KS3 S	70	73	[1]28 (51)

[1] First number indicates the number of markers that were stopped after failing both attempts at a benchmark set and were stopped. The number in brackets represents the number of markers who failed either two benchmark sets or failed the first attempt and never attempted the second.

Question 221792 To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many markers were employed to mark the key stage (a) two and (b) three tests in (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) science in (A) 2006, (B) 2007 and (C) 2008; and if he will make a statement. Please find the information you require in the table below:

Total number of markers	2006	2007	2008
Key stage 2 English S2 E	1,669	1,644	1,691
Key stage 2 Maths	1,296	1,284	1,440
Key stage 2 Science	1,242	1,241	1,543
Key stage 3 Reading	913	898	976
Key stage 3 Writing	916	891	790
Key stage 3 Maths	1,709	1,646	1,808
Key stage 2 Science	1,710	1,656	1,743

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the cost of the key stage two and key stage three tests in each year from 2004 to 2008; and if he will make a statement. [221793]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of national curriculum tests. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests and manages the delivery contract, on QCA's behalf. David Gee the managing director of the NAA has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 2 October 2008:

The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon. Ed Balls MP, has asked me to write to you about the estimate he has made of the cost of the key stage two and key stage three tests in each year from 2004 to 2008 (221793)

The total costs for National Curriculum Tests for each subsequent financial year (April - March) are:

	Total cost of NCT £000
2007-08	50,570
2006-07	51,559
2005-06	51,743
2004-05	43,828
2003-04	40,231

These figures include Test Development, Print and Distribution, Exam Marking and Data Collection, Test Administration and Maintaining Standards for Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 tests.

The figure for 2007-8 excludes the £19.5m refund and cancellation of £4.6m in additional invoices in QCA's favour, which was agreed as part of the settlement between QCA and ETS.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) who in the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority was responsible for the negotiations with ETS for the contract to administer and mark the Key Stage 2 and 3 SATs; [222023]

(2) pursuant to the Oral Statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 680, on SATS, when the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority entered into contractual discussions with ETS Europe; and for how long these discussions are expected to continue. [223072]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for the marking process. David Gee the Managing Director of the NAA has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his letters have been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 18 September 2008:

Parliamentary Question 222023

The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, has asked me to write to you concerning your parliamentary question relating to who in the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority headed negotiations with ETS Europe for the contract to provide external marking and data collection services for key stage 2 & 3 national curriculum tests.

During 2006, the Senior Responsible Officer for the procurement was the NAA Operations Director. Various types of discussion were held with, and presentations given by, ETS and other suppliers during the competitive dialogue procurement process at which either the NAA Managing Director and/or the NAA Operations Director and the wider NAA team were present.

Letter from David Gee, dated 25 September 2008:

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Rt Hon Ed Balls, has asked me to write to you to answer parliamentary question 223072 about when the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority entered into contractual discussions with ETS Europe; and for how long these discussions are expected to continue.

These discussions commenced on the 8th July 2008 and were successfully concluded on 15th August 2008.

National Curriculum Tests: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to address recent delays in the provision of SAT results to schools in Coventry. [222680]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State and Ofqual have ordered an independent inquiry into test result delivery problems. Lord Sutherland, who has agreed to lead the inquiry, will publish his reports in the autumn. The terms of this comprehensive inquiry will investigate what went wrong, the reasons for the problems experienced and what should be done to avoid a recurrence in future years.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of national curriculum tests. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests and manages the delivery contract, on QCA's behalf. David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 2 October 2008:

The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, has asked me to write to you about what steps the Government has taken to address recent delays in the provision of SAT results to schools in Coventry(222680).

The National Assessment Agency is responsible for the delivery of Key Stage tests (SATs) on behalf of the DCSF. The external marking and data collection contract was let by NAA to ETS Europe for the 2008 tests. Following ETS' failure to deliver all test results by the contractual milestone of 8th July, the NAA has taken a number of steps to deliver outstanding results to schools as speedily as possible. These measures have been applied equally across all schools in England with missing results, including those in Coventry.

The NAA took over direct responsibility for all outstanding marking, and for the reviews process from mid-August following termination of the contract with ETS. Markers were required to input marks into ETS' systems to allow pupils' results to be viewed via a secure website. Ongoing technical issues with ETS' systems prevented marks for some schools from being posted on the website. NAA is working with the remaining schools which are missing pupils' results to resolve the issues. In addition the NAA has increased its helpdesk capacity to respond to and make telephone calls to schools with any residual results issues.

Pupil Exclusions: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in Yorkshire and the Humber were excluded for assaulting or threatening a teacher in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223815]

Beverley Hughes: My Department collects information on the reasons why pupils have been excluded, either for a fixed period or permanently. This includes categories for "physical assault against an adult" and "verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult". It is not possible to determine if this relates to teachers or another adult within the school.

Data on the reason for exclusion are available for 2003-04 onwards. However for 2005-06 this information is only available for secondary schools due to underlying changes in the data collection. The available information is shown in the table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: number of permanent exclusions by reason of exclusion[3], 2003-04 to 2006-07[4] — Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region

	Permanent exclusions	
	Physical assault against an adult	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*
2003-04	160	90
2004-05	150	100
2005-06	[5]	[5]
2006-07	80	90

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes non-maintained special schools, CTCs and Academies.
[3] For the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 the distribution of exclusions by reason has been derived from Termly Exclusions Survey returns and applied to the number of permanent exclusions as confirmed by local authorities as part of the Schools' Census data checking exercise.
[4] Totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[5] For 2005-06 available figures relate to secondary schools only, these show 70 permanent exclusions for physical assault against an adult and 80 permanent exclusions for verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: number of fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion[3], 2003-04 to 2006-07[4]—Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region

	Fixed period exclusions	
	Physical assault against an adult	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*
2003-04	2,410	10,630
2004-05	2,340	10,670
2005-06	[5]—	[5]—
2006-07	2,220	11,070

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] For 2003-04 and 2004-05 excludes non-maintained special schools and CTCs.
[3] For the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 the distribution of exclusions by reason has been derived from Termly Exclusions Survey, for 2005-06 onwards it is derived from the School Census.
[4] Totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[5] For 2005-06 available figures relate to secondary schools only, these show 1,140 fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult and 10,280 fixed period exclusions for verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 11 year olds *(a)* not entitled and *(b)* entitled to free school meals achieved level four in English and mathematics at key stage 2 in each year since 1997. [225124]

Jim Knight: The proportion of pupils at Key Stage 2 *(a)* not entitled to free school meals and *(b)* entitled to free school meals who achieved level four and above in English and mathematics for 2007 is shown in the following table.

Subject	*Percentage*	
	Not entitled to free school meals	*Entitled to free school meals*
English	83	62
Mathematics	80	60

Source:
National Pupil Database (Provisional figures)

Further details can be found in the in the Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2006/07"

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

published in November 2007.

The equivalent figures for 2006 are shown in the following table:

Subject	*Percentage*	
	Not entitled to free school meals	*Entitled to free school meals*
English	83	61
Mathematics	79	58

Source:
National Pupil Database (Revised figures)

Further details can be found in the in the Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2005/06 (Revised)"

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000708/index.shtml

published in February 2007.

Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

School Leaving: Qualifications

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many letters he has received from members of the public on the 14 to 19 diplomas in the last three months; and what percentage of those letters have supported the programme. [224564]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Over last three months we have received a total of 113 pieces of correspondence in regard to diplomas, of which four (4.52 per cent.) were specifically in support of the introduction of diplomas. The remaining 109 pieces of correspondence were general inquiries.

Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools were built between *(a)* 1997 and 2007 and *(b)* 1987 and 1997; and if he will make a statement; [225032]

(2) what the average expenditure on school buildings was in each year from *(a)* 1979 to 1997 and *(b)* 1997 to 2007; and if he will make a statement. [225090]

Jim Knight: School Building Investment Data was published by the Department in May 2007 based on information supplied by local authorities. This showed that between 1997-8 and 2006-7, 231 new additional schools were built, and 853 were rebuilt. The information also showed that between 1992 and 1997, 85 new additional schools were built, and 216 were rebuilt. The department does not hold information on the number of schools built between 1987 and 1992. A copy of the publication is held in the parliamentary Library.

The Department does not hold data on average expenditure on school buildings. Levels of investment are decided locally and authorities may add funding from other sources to the schools capital allocations they receive from Government.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.7 billion in 2008-9 and will rise further to £8.2 billion by 2010-11.

Schools: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of the key stage *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 tests was in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [225174]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's estimate of the combined costs of delivering the national curriculum tests for Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 is as follows:

	Total cost of NCT (£000)
2007/08	50,570
2006/07	51,559
2005/06	51,743

	Total cost of NCT (£000)
2004/05	43,828
2003/04	40,231
2002/03	38,944
2001/02	28,074
2000/01	28,014
1999/2000	25,693
1998/99	19,672

The QCA was formed in October 1997, so no full year figures are available for 1997/98. In addition, QCA's records from 1998 onwards do not support the split of information between the various key stages.

Schools: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children due to enter their first year of primary school did not have a school place by 1 September in the relevant year in each London borough in each year since 1997. [224967]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect data on primary school offers or on the number of unplaced children. Local authorities are under a duty to make sure that every child of compulsory school age has a suitable school place.

Schools: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what public funding is being made available for new school buildings at Eaton Hall, Nottinghamshire. [224585]

Jim Knight: Eaton Hall is occupied by an independent school. There is currently no Government funding available for new school buildings as the school operates in the independent sector.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the level of public access to new sports facilities funded by the sale of playing fields at Portland School, Worksop. [224586]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In its application to dispose of the surplus playing field land at the school, Nottinghamshire county council indicated that the new sports facilities were to be designed to facilitate out-of-school and extended school activities and would greatly enhance community participation in sport. The community use of the new facilities was to be managed by the private finance initiative provider in conjunction with the local district council.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which schools in Nottinghamshire have been proposed for either new building or significant rebuilding through the Building Schools for the Future programme in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011, *(c)* 2012, *(d)* 2013 and *(e)* 2014; [224904]

(2) when he expects Serlby Park school to be rebuilt under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [224587]

Jim Knight: Nottinghamshire local authority entered the Building Schools for the Future programme in Wave 6 and is currently developing a strategy for educational transformation for the first phase of schools in Newark, parts of Mansfield and Market Warsop. Expected completion dates for individual schools are not agreed until the Outline Business Case is submitted by the authority to the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Serlby Park School is expected to be included in a later phase of the authority's project.

Schools: Sports

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools are offering at least four hours of sport a week, broken down by local authority; [224794]

(2) what percentage of *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools offer two hours of sport within the school day, broken down by local authority; [224806]

(3) what percentage of *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools offer two hours or more a week of sport outside the school day, broken down by local authority. [224807]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The annual School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003/04 and collects data from schools in school sport partnerships relating to the percentage of pupils participating in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport in a typical week. The survey does not collect data relating to the proportion of pupils participating in four or more hours of sport a week. All maintained schools in England have been in School Sport Partnerships since September 2006.

The following table sets out the 2006/07 School Sport Survey results of the percentage of pupils in each local authority area taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport in a typical week. Further analysis between primary and secondary schools could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Overall, 86 per cent. of pupils participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week in 2006/07.

	Total
Barking and Dagenham	80
Barnet	82
Barnsley	83
Bath and North East Somerset	90
Bedfordshire	92
Bexley	86
Birmingham	84
Blackburn with Darwen	89
Blackpool	90
Bolton	81
Bournemouth	83
Bracknell Forest	83
Bradford	80
Brent	83
Brighton and Hove	90
Bristol, City of	88
Bromley	88
Buckinghamshire	87
Bury	89
Calderdale	84
Cambridgeshire	83
Camden	82
Cheshire	91

	Total
City of London	88
Cornwall	92
Coventry	77
Croydon	82
Cumbria	87
Darlington	87
Derby	88
Derbyshire	86
Devon	94
Doncaster	74
Dorset	90
Dudley	87
Durham	88
Ealing	89
East Riding of Yorkshire	90
East Sussex	90
Enfield	87
Essex	87
Gateshead	81
Gloucestershire	87
Greenwich	78
Hackney	84
Halton	84
Hammersmith and Fulham	88
Hampshire	88
Haringey	89
Harrow	84
Hartlepool	90
Havering	81
Herefordshire	94
Hertfordshire	87
Hillingdon	82
Hounslow	82
Isle of Wight	83
Isles of Scilly	67
Islington	88
Kensington and Chelsea	88
Kent	84
Kingston upon Hull, City of	82
Kingston upon Thames	82
Kirklees	83
Knowsley	85
Lambeth	82
Lancashire	82
Leeds	86
Leicester	80
Leicestershire	82
Lewisham	89
Lincolnshire	87
Liverpool	86
Luton	87
Manchester	89
Medway	71
Merton	87
Middlesbrough	84
Milton Keynes	92
Newcastle upon Tyne	88
Newham	91
Norfolk	87
North East Lincolnshire	81
North Lincolnshire	85
North Somerset	90
North Tyneside	88
North Yorkshire	88

	Total
Northamptonshire	88
Northumberland	82
Nottingham	84
Nottinghamshire	89
Oldham	91
Oxfordshire	87
Peterborough	82
Plymouth	85
Poole	90
Portsmouth	82
Reading	78
Redbridge	80
Redcar and Cleveland	84
Richmond upon Thames	91
Rochdale	84
Rotherham	84
Rutland	85
Salford	78
Sandwell	83
Sefton	87
Sheffield	82
Shropshire	89
Slough	95
Solihull	85
Somerset	89
South Gloucestershire	85
South Tyneside	91
Southampton	83
Southend-on-Sea	96
Southwark	87
St Helens	90
Staffordshire	80
Stockport	80
Stockton-on-Tees	89
Stoke-on-Trent	83
Suffolk	82
Sunderland	90
Surrey	80
Sutton	88
Swindon	77
Tameside	78
Telford and Wrekin	91
Thurrock	86
Torbay	89
Tower Hamlets	81
Trafford	85
Wakefield	86
Walsall	86
Waltham Forest	87
Wandsworth	89
Warrington	93
Warwickshire	84
West Berkshire	80
West Sussex	85
Westminster	87
Wigan	89
Wiltshire	89
Windsor and Maidenhead	92
Wirral	88
Wokingham	88
Wolverhampton	87
Worcestershire	93
York	90

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department provided for the Physical Education, School Sport and Club Link Strategy in each of the last five years. [225686]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A breakdown of the Department's investment in England into the strategy from 2003-04 to 2007-08 is set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Funding (£ million)*
2003-04	78
2004-05	116
2005-06	155
2006-07	208.5
2007-08	221.8
Total	779.3

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which local authorities over 50 per cent. of children did not achieve five or more A* to C grade GCSEs, including English and mathematics, in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [224903]

Jim Knight: The available information on GCSE and equivalent results by local authority area is contained within Table 18 of Statistical First Release (SFR) GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006-07 (Revised) which was published in January 2008. This SFR can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml.

Figures cover all maintained mainstream schools (including CTCs and Academies) and maintained special schools, but exclude hospital schools and pupil referral units.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of spending on the National Challenge for Schools in each year between 2008 and 2012, broken down by smallest geographical area available; and if he will make a statement. [224668]

Jim Knight: In June 2008, the Secretary of State announced our intention to invest £400 million to ensure that in every secondary school at least 30 per cent. of students achieve five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics by 2011. Distribution of the available funding will depend upon the assessment by schools, national challenge advisers and local authorities, with the DCSF, of how we can best support the achievement of young people. No decisions about allocations to particular geographical areas or in individual years have yet been made.

Teachers: Manpower

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time primary school teachers there were in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223811]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent and full-time headcount of regular teachers employed in local authority maintained nursery and primary schools in Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region and England, January 2004 to 2008.

Full-time equivalent and full-time headcount of regular teachers in local authority maintained nursery and primary schools, January 2004 to 2008

	Full-time equivalent		*Full-time headcount*	
	Yorkshire and the Humber	*England*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*England*
2008	20,340	198,090	17,420	169,620
2007	20,370	197,100	17,560	169,910
2006	20,430	198,200	17,770	172,050
2005	20,220	196,270	17,860	172,050
2004	20,380	196,640	18,260	174,230

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618 g.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether an academic review day counts as one of the 190 days per year on which a teacher is required to teach pupils and perform other duties, as referred to in paragraph 77.3 of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document 2008. [225056]

Jim Knight: The term 'academic review day' is not a legal term, but is commonly used to describe a day on which a school closes to pupils so that staff may hold progress-review meetings with parents and pupils. Though the Department does not collect data on this practice, we understand that schools using such review days have adopted for this purpose one or more of the 190 days upon which they are required to meet each academic year.

Teachers: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the annual cost of the teachers' pension scheme; and if he will make a statement. [225057]

Jim Knight: The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) has estimated expenditure of £6,498 million and estimated income of £4,704 million in 2008-09.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the terms and conditions of the teachers' pension scheme. [225058]

Jim Knight: The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a defined benefit occupational pension scheme for teachers and lecturers in England and Wales which provides a range of benefits for members and their families.

The terms and conditions of the TPS were reformed from 1 January 2007 following a review involving the teacher and lecturer unions, employer representatives and the Government. The review considered all aspects of pension provision and introduced changes that: increased the contribution rate paid by all members and the normal pension age for new entrants to 65; deliver a modernised TPS more relevant to the needs of employers and members; makes sure the TPS will continue to be an important and valuable element of the total remuneration package for teachers and lecturers that

supports recruitment and retention; and ensures the long term financial sustainability of the scheme.

The detailed provisions of the TPS can be found at www.teacherspensions.co.uk

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers in Yorkshire and the Humber did not have qualified teacher status in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223810]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers without qualified teacher status employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region and England, January 2004 to 2008.

Full-time equivalent unqualified[1] regular teachers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary[2] schools, January 2004 to 2008

	Yorkshire and the Humber		England	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
2008	300	830	5,210	10,230
2007	330	850	5,500	9,930
2006	330	790	6,220	10,390
2005	310	730	6,350	10,980
2004	310	730	6,200	10,400

[1] Includes instructors, overseas trained teachers and teachers on employment-based routes to qualified teacher status (Graduate Teacher Programme, the Registered Teachers Programme, the Overseas Trained Teachers Programme and the Teach First Scheme).
[2] Maintained sector only. Teachers in academies (including those that were previously maintained schools) are not included.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618 g.

Teachers: Sick Leave

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching days were lost to sickness absence in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223809]

Jim Knight: The number of teaching days taken as sickness absence in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five calendar years is shown in the following table.

Number of teaching days taken as sickness absence

Calendar year	Full-time teachers	Part-time teachers	Total
2007	304,200	65,800	370,000
2006	281,600	69,300	350,900
2005	293,900	58,700	352,600
2004	297,300	46,100	343,300
2003	290,100	45,500	335,600

Note:
Figures in the table include an estimated breakdown for authorities unable to distinguish between full-time and part-time absences.

Further details can be found in the School Workforce Statistical First Releases (SFR); the most recent SFR was published on 25 September 2008 and can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/index.shtml

Teachers: Training

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of Bachelor of Education course entrants did not have an A-level in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223797]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table and shows the percentage of entrants to undergraduate Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses by their highest qualification on entry. Qualifications included in the "Other" category might be higher than A/AS level so could include trainees who have A/AS levels. A percentage relating specifically to entrants with no qualifications at advanced level is therefore not available.

Undergraduate trainees only represent 24 per cent. of trainees on ITT courses (excluding employment based routes).

Percentage of undergraduate entrants to initial teacher training (ITT) courses by their highest qualification on entry, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
	EBITT	Mainstream	Total	EBITT	Mainstream	Total	EBITT	Mainstream	Total
Highest qualification on entry:									
With A or AS	0	62	60	0	65	64	0	67	64
GNVQ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access	0	11	10	0	11	11	0	10	9
Other	100	28	29	100	23	25	100	24	26
Undefined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

	2005-06			2007-07		
	EBITT	Mainstream	Total	EBITT	Mainstream	Total
Highest qualification on entry:						
With A or AS	0	70	68	0	64	62
GNVQ	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access	0	7	7	0	8	8
Other	100	23	25	100	28	29

	2005-06			2007-07		
	EBITT	Mainstream	Total	EBITT	Mainstream	Total
Undefined	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Notes:
1. Mainstream includes Universities and other higher education institutes and Open University, but excludes Employment Based ITT (EBITT).
2. EBITT includes trainees through the Registered Teacher Programme.
Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles

Teachers: Vacancies

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many vacancies for full-time secondary school teachers there were in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [223818]

Jim Knight: The number of vacancies for full-time secondary school teachers in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

	Vacancies
2008	150
2007	100
2006	110
2005	160
2004	140

Further details can be found in the School Workforce Statistical First Releases (SFR), the most recent of which was published on 25 September and can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/index.shtml

Information on teacher vacancies can be found in table 7.

Young Offenders: General Certificate for Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of people who had been in young offender institutions for *(a)* less than and *(b)* more than two years were entered for GCSEs in each of the last five years. [224928]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect data on GCSE enrolments by young people in young offender institutions (YOIs) broken down by length of stay in custody. However, the roll-out of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) from 31 July 2006, means that some data on young offender enrolment within YOIs is now collected. Data are only available for 2006/07, during which 95 young people were enrolled on one or more GCSE course.

However, many young people in custody are still enrolled at learning providers in the community and therefore their enrolments are not included in the figure provided. Also, many young people stay in custody only for a very short time, and therefore it is not always realistic for them to enrol on and achieve long-term qualifications (e.g. GCSEs), in custody. Therefore, the LSC figure quoted in this answer does not provide records of all of the enrolments of all young people in YOIs. Data are not available for GCSE achievements for young people in Secure Children's Homes, Secure Training Centres, or privately run YOIs.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Manpower

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed *(a)* directly and *(b)* as consultants by Arts Council England to administer funds from the National Lottery. [223883]

Barbara Follett: 783 people were employed directly by Arts Council England in 2007-08. Information on consultants employed to administer funds from the National Lottery is not available.

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the annual contribution of the heritage sector to the national economy. [224497]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* English Heritage is aware of several studies which have attempted to estimate the contribution of a particular element of the heritage sector to the national economy, but these have not enabled an aggregated figure to be prepared.

Significant figures are, however, available. For example, privately owned historic houses generate an economic contribution of over £1.6 billion; England's cathedrals generate around £150 million per annum of benefits for the local and national economies; and a report into traditional building skills estimated that £3.5 billion was invested in historic buildings in 2005, a significant proportion of which paid for skilled craftsmen in the building trades.

Tourism, one of the largest industries in the UK, was estimated to be worth approximately £85.6 billion in 2006. England's historic buildings are a key motivator for those considering a visit to the country and top the table of activities undertaken by those who actually do visit. It is therefore clear that a considerable proportion of the £85.6 billion is generated indirectly by the historic environment.

Cultural Heritage: Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on salaries for staff working on heritage in each year since 1997. [224495]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The table lists the departmental expenditure on salaries of staff responsible for heritage issues such as quality of architectural design and identification and conservation of the historic environment.

Financial year	*Staff salaries (£)*
2007-08	1,124,157
2006-07	1,325,700
2005-06	1,280,254
2004-05	1,144,534
2003-04	1,196,317
2002-03	1,119,179
2001-02	1,133,247
2000-01	1,130,964
1999-00	1,222,945
1998-97	1,283,099
1997-98	1,126,041

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218690]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Based on average staff numbers for each of the last three years, the results are as follows:

	Number of staff	*Percentage of staff*
2007-08	41	8.4
2006-07	50	9.3
2005-06	57	11.0

As part of the Department's Diversity and Health and well-being policies, we have a range of initiatives and programmes in place to support staff and to manage stress, mental health and behavioural issues.

Furthermore, in order to raise awareness of stress and mental health issues we have implemented a range of initiatives and guidance for managers and staff to manage mental health problems in the workplace including an initiative to tackle the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness.

We regularly monitor sickness absence and reasons for absences as a means to tackle attendance issues and provide support to our staff. This support ranges from a 24-hour employee assistance programme, occupational health referral, rehabilitation programme for staff and reasonable adjustments to work or the working environment.

Our work-life balance and lifestyle programme supports our "stress at work" policy allowing staff to manage stress through achievement of effective work-life balance.

We have robust procedures in place to manage sickness absence within the Department and the policy includes guidance for staff on how to preserve and maintain their own and others mental well-being, this includes information on preventing and identifying stress.

The Department has completed a stress audit recently and the overall departmental analysis shows that there are no areas of high risk stress across the Department, and only three areas of medium risk. We are now in the process of drawing up an action plan to address the issues highlighted in the report. We will also be running a health event in November which will aim to raise awareness of health and well-being issues.

The Department's sick pay policy pays for sickness absence on full pay for up to six months in any period of 12 months absence—followed by half pay for sickness of up to a maximum of 12 months in any period of four years or less.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department have had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five years. [218964]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There were 11 staff in the Department who had five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in two or more of the last five year.

As part of the Department's diversity and health and well-being policies, we have a range of initiatives and programmes in place to support staff and to manage stress, mental health and behavioural issues.

Furthermore, in order to raise awareness of stress and mental health issues we have implemented a range of initiatives and guidance for managers and staff to manage mental health problems in the workplace including an initiative to tackle the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness.

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The Department's signature sick pay policy pays for sickness absence on full pay for up to six months in any period of 12 months absence—followed by half pay for sickness of up to a maximum of 12 months in any period of four years or less.

English Heritage: Educational Visits

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many educational visits to English Heritage managed properties took place in each of the last five years; and how many of these were provided without charge by English Heritage. [224496]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The information requested has been provided by English Heritage and is set out in the table.

English Heritage has offered schoolchildren free entry to its sites since it was created in 1984. More recently, in response to feedback from teachers asking for more support at sites, English Heritage introduced interactive, curriculum-linked sessions in September 2006 called Discovery Visits. While entry to the sites remains free, schools are charged £60 for these sessions for a group of up to 30 pupils. In 2006-07, 10,400 children took part in Discovery Visits and 27,000 in 2007-08.

	Number of educational visits
2003-04	497,000
2004-05	475,850
2005-06	485,000
2006-07	481,000
2007-08	450,000

Listed Buildings

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether English Heritage plans to list the Edinburgh Dome at Malvern St. James School, Worcestershire; and if he will make a statement. [222407]

Barbara Follett: *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* While English Heritage receives applications, assesses buildings and makes recommendations, responsibility for decisions on whether or not to list a building remain, under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has received advice from English Heritage on the Edinburgh Dome at Malvern St. James School, and he will aim to make a decision by 30 November. He will inform the hon. Member of the outcome.

Pay Television

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress Ofcom has made in its investigation into the pay television market; and when he expects the conclusion of the investigation to be published. [222830]

Andy Burnham: On 30 September Ofcom published a further consultation as part of its Pay TV market investigation. This consultation seeks views on whether BSkyB has market power in the wholesale supply of certain content—particularly Premier League football and first run movies—and whether BSkyB has the incentive to limit the distribution of this content to competitors, in a manner which favours its own platform. It also seeks views on a proposal to require BSkyB to make its content more widely available to its competitors. I have asked officials at Ofcom to update my hon. Friend on the likely future progress of this investigation.

Public Houses

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many public houses have been opened in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each of the last five years; [223878]

(2) how many public houses owned by a pub company there were in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each of the last five years; [223879]

(3) how many public houses have closed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [223881]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The requested data are not centrally held.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of closures of establishments in the public house sector in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2007. [223926]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no centrally held data for the total number of public house closures in the years 2000, 2003 and 2007. The Department's annual data collection on licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003 includes the number of premises licences which have been surrendered, revoked or have lapsed. However, those figures are not broken down by the type of licensed premises or licensable activity and do not include licences where the establishment has closed, but where the licence has not been surrendered. Prior to the 2003 Act coming into effect, liquor licensing data were collected triennially with the last collection covering the year to 30 June 2004.

Regional Cultural Consortiums

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 51-52WS, on DCMS engagement, what estimate he has made of the costs arising from abolition of the Regional Cultural Consortia. [223017]

Barbara Follett: The Regional Cultural Consortiums currently receive annual grant-in-aid from my Department of approximately £1.7 million. Thus, in overall terms, there will be a saving of £1.7 million per annum to the taxpayer arising from their abolition.

Each consortium has been asked to submit its detailed plan for wind up, including a full analysis of costs. Once we have had an opportunity to review and analyse these plans we will have a clearer estimate of the likely short-term costs. In addition, we are providing an extra £50,000 per annum per region to the four key public bodies to assist them in developing and implementing their plans for the new arrangements in the regions.

South East

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on services, broken down by type in *(a)* Dartford Borough,

(b) Kent Thameside, *(c)* the Thames Gateway, *(d)* Kent County Council area and *(e)* the South East region in each of the last five years. [222451]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sport England: Public Appointments

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what costs his Department has incurred in advertising the position of Chairman of Sport England in each month since November 2007. [224840]

Andy Burnham: The costs incurred in advertising the Chair of Sport England since November 2007 were £7,669 in January 2008 and £8,297 in June 2008 (exclusive of VAT).

Sports: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations his Department has received from the London Borough of Enfield on maintaining the Queen Elizabeth II Sports Stadium in Enfield as a sports centre; and what steps his Department is taking to discourage local authorities from allowing their sports facilities to become unsafe for use. [222662]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Neither my Department nor Sport England has received representations from the London Borough of Enfield in relation to the Queen Elizabeth II Sports Centre.

The provision and maintenance of local facilities is primarily a matter for local authorities. Sport England would only intervene in such cases if it had invested money in the facility, if it was involved in a planning issue or if it was in the public interest for Sport England to intervene.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* lottery funding and *(b)* public funding has been provided to (i) athletics and (ii) swimming, broken down by (A) local authority area and (B) region, in each year since 2005. [223842]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has provided the following information on lottery and Exchequer funding for athletics and swimming in each local authority area and region since 2005.

Athletics/swimming region lottery awards, 2005-06 to 2007-08

Financial year	Sport	Region	Sub total	Total
2005-06	Athletics	East Midlands	90,000	
		Eastern	90,000	
		London	60,000	
		National	3,214,112	
		North East	410,500	
		North West	286,675	
		South East	225,172	
		South West	233,893	
		West Midlands	160,288	
		Yorkshire and Humberside	290,000	
	Athletics total			5,050,640
	Swimming	Eastern	2,996,354	
		London	187,530	
		National	6,922,793	
		South East	1,694,986	
	Swimming total			11,801,663
2005-06 total				16,852,303
2006-07	Athletics	East Midlands	140,000	
		National	5,513,853	
		North West	25,000	
		South East	137,000	
		West Midlands	56,960	
	Athletics total			5,872,813
	Swimming	London	693,000	
		National	5,909,654	
		North East	28,767	
		West Midlands	9,315	
	Swimming total			6,640,736
2006-07 total				12,513,549
2007-08	Athletics	East Midlands	43,900	
		Eastern	107,830	
		London	1,706,000	
		National	6,524,483	
		South East	908,514	
		South West	10,000	
	Athletics total			9,300,727
	Swimming	East	23,859	
		East Midlands	151,300	
		National	3,215,437	
		North East	78,571	
		North West	50,000	
		South East	6,295,823	
		South West	550,000	
		West Midlands	500,000	
		Yorkshire and Humberside	290,472	
	Swimming total			11,155,462
2007-08 total				20,456,189
Grand total				49,822,041

Athletics/swimming local authority lottery awards, 2005-06 to 2007-08

Financial year	*Distributing body sector*	*Local authority*	*Sub total*	*Total*
2005-06	Athletics	Blackpool	10,000	
		Bolton	50,000	
		Bradford	130,000	
		Braintree	40,000	
		Bristol, City of	40,000	
		Bury	50,000	
		Camden	20,000	
		Canterbury	38,172	
		Cheltenham	10,000	
		County of Herefordshire	30,000	
		Coventry	120,000	
		East Hertfordshire	50,000	
		Eden	60,650	
		Exeter	93,893	
		Gateshead	360,000	
		Guildford	30,000	
		Kerrier	50,000	
		Lincoln	40,000	
		National	3,214,112	
		North Devon	40,000	
		North Lincolnshire	10,000	
		Oldham	6,025	
		Pendle	20,000	
		Portsmouth	40,000	
		Redbridge	40,000	
		Redcar and Cleveland	50,500	
		Sheffield	150,000	
		Solihull	10,288	
		South Kesteven	40,000	
		St. Helens	30,000	
		Trafford	60,000	
		West Berkshire	100,000	
		Winchester	17,000	
	Athletics total			5,050,640
	Swimming	City of London	187,530	
		Forest Heath	2,996,354	
		National	6,922,793	
		Oxford	1,694,986	
	Swimming total			11,801,663
2005-06 total				16,852,303
2006-07	Athletics	Amber Valley	20,000	
		Birmingham	51,960	
		Charnwood	120,000	
		Dudley	5,000	
		Lancaster	25,000	
		Milton Keynes	100,000	
		National	5,513,853	
		Vale of White Horse	20,000	
		Winchester	17,000	
	Athletics total			5,872,813
	Swimming	Bexley	693,000	
		National	5,909,654	
		Redditch	9,315	
		Sunderland	28,767	
	Swimming total			6,640,736
2006-07 total				12,513,549
2007-08	Athletics	Bedford	20,000	
		Bristol, City of	10,000	
		Daventry	43,900	
		National	6,524,483	
		Newham	1,000,000	
		Norwich	87,830	
		Richmond upon Thames	150,000	
		Southwark	96,000	
		Westminster	460,000	
		Winchester	908,514	
	Athletics total			9,300,727
	Swimming	Aylesbury Vale	122,000	
		Cannock Chase	500,000	
		Horsham	683,823	
		Leicester	151,300	
		Maldon	23,859	
		National	3,215,437	
		North East Lincolnshire	290,472	
		Portsmouth	5,490,000	
		Sunderland	78,571	
		Torbay	550,000	
		Wyre	50,000	
	Swimming total			11,155,462
2007-08 total				20,456,189
Grand total				49,822,041

Athletics/swimming local authority lottery awards, 2005-06 to 2007-08

Financial year	*Distributing body sector*	*Local authority*	*Sub total*	*Total*
2005-06	Athletics	National	1,127,000	
	Athletics total			1,127,000
	Swimming	National	701,000	
	Swimming total			701,000
2005-06 total				1,828,000
2006-07	Athletics	National	367,000	

Athletics/swimming local authority lottery awards, 2005-06 to 2007-08

Financial year	Distributing body sector	Local authority	Sub total	Total
	Athletics total			367,000
	Swimming	Coventry	250,000	
		Gateshead	21,000	
		Hartlepool	10,000	
		Maidstone	15,870	
		Middlesbrough	15,000	
		National	372,000	
		Redditch	90,000	
		Sedgefield	10,000	
		Tewkesbury	90,000	
		Wansbeck	7,000	
		Wear Valley	7,000	
		Windsor and Maidenhead	90,021	
	Swimming total			947,891
2006-07 total				1,314,891
2007-08	Athletics	Exeter	3,000	
		National	741,718	
		Preston	-8,000	
		Thanet	140,000	
	Athletics total			876,718
	Swimming	National	484,370	
		Bristol	130,000	
		National	120,414	
		Newcastle upon Tyne	8,000	
		Sedgefield	-1,207	
		Tandridge	30,000	
		Torbay	84,615	
	Swimming total			856,192
2007-08 total				1,732,910
				4,875,801

Athletics/swimming region Exchequer awards, 2005-06 to 2007-08

Financial year	Distributing body sector	Region	Sub total	Total
2005-06	Athletics	National	1,127,000	
	Athletics total			1,127,000
	Swimming	National	701,000	
	Swimming total			701,000
2005-06 total				1,828,000
2006-07	Athletics	National	367,000	
	Athletics total			367,000
	Swimming	National	372,000	
		North East	70,000	
		South East	105,891	
		South West	90,000	
		West Midlands	310,000	

Athletics/swimming region Exchequer awards, 2005-06 to 2007-08

Financial year	Distributing body sector	Region	Sub total	Total
	Swimming total			947,891
2006-07 total				1,314,891
2007-08	Athletics	National	741,718	
		North West	-8,000	
		South East	140,000	
		South West	3,000	
	Athletics total			876,718
	Swimming	National	484,370	
		National	120,414	
		North East	6,793	
		South East	30,000	
		South West	214,615	
	Swimming total			856,192
2007-08 total				1,732,910
Grand total				4,875,801

Sports: Greater London

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public money is projected to be spent on grassroots sports in the London boroughs of *(a)* Southwark, *(b)* Lambeth, *(c)* Lewisham, *(d)* Newham, *(e)* Hackney, *(f)* Waltham Forest, *(g)* Tower Hamlets and *(h)* Greenwich in each year of the current spending round. [224185]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Funding for grassroots sport in London is available from a number of sources including local authority expenditure, Exchequer funding from DCMS via Sport England, and lottery funding via Sport England. We do not hold information on local authority expenditure, and it is not possible to provide final Exchequer or lottery projections at this stage of the financial year. Sport England has provided the following projections based on confirmed awards to date. Final spend will only be known after the end of the financial year.

	£
Southwark	114,629
Waltham Forest	23,300
Tower Hamlets	61,722
Greenwich	153,146
Lambeth	296,604
Lewisham	130,258
Newham	122,474
Hackney	1,037,177
Total	1,939,310

Spending for the period from April 2009 will be through the new Sport England funding framework outlined in their new strategy published in June of this year. Funding will be directed primarily through national governing bodies in light of the Whole Sport Plans which are currently being considered by Sport England.

Sports: Hearing Impaired

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to support deaf people who participate in sport, with particular reference to enabling deaf athletes to attend the Deaflympic Summer Games in Taiwan in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [224375]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* We are absolutely committed to equality in sport, and the new Sport England strategy aims to develop a world-leading community sport system, which will increase participation from all groups in society.

UK Deaf Sport, like other disability sport organisations, does not receive core funding from Sport England or UK Sport. However, I know that UK Deaf Sport have already made good progress in raising funds to send a team to Taiwan next year, and I hope they will be able to replicate, or better, their successful performance in Melbourne in 2005.

Sports: Milton Keynes

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much lottery funding has been awarded to sports groups in Milton Keynes in the last 12 months. [224326]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* Sports groups in the Milton Keynes local authority area have received £34,109 of lottery funding during the period 1 October 2007 to 1 October 2008. A further four local organisations and groups have received lottery funding totalling £47,507 for sports activities in the same period.

These statistics come from the Department's Lottery Grants Database. The database is searchable at

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information on lottery grants supplied by the lottery distributors.

Sports: North East

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance his Department is giving to third sector organisations in the North East region to support the development and work of local voluntary sports clubs. [222627]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that within the North East over the last two years there has been significant work with third sector organisations to support the development and work of local voluntary sports clubs.

Sport England in the North East, working with County Sports Partnerships, provided over £520,000 to deliver subsidised education, training and development opportunities for grass roots volunteering and voluntary community sports organisations. Work has also continued with the LSC and Skills Active to provide appropriate training opportunities for volunteers.

The region's 2012 legacy ambitions also highlight volunteering as a key area of work over the next four years. The Regional Volunteering Strategy was driven by the 2012 Volunteering Theme Group and will provide the framework for future work in the region, specifically around the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

Sports: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1157-58W, on sports: per capita costs, what the per capita spend on sport from *(a)* public and *(b)* national lottery sources was in each (i) Government region and (ii) local authority area in each of the last three years. [223834]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Pursuant to the answer I gave on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1157-58W, Sport England has advised that the following per capita expenditure was made to each Government region in each of the last three years, from public and national lottery sources. Similar information by local authority area could be provided only at disproportionate cost:

	Spend per capita (£)	
Government region	*Exchequer*	*Lottery*
2005-06		
Eastern	0.25	1.29
East Midlands	0.85	2.28
London	0.85	0.95
North East	0.23	1.71
North West	0.37	4.00
South East	0.31	1.21
South West	0.20	0.75
West Midlands	0.37	1.11
Yorks and Humberside	1.20	1.61
2006-07		
Eastern	0.40	0.93
East Midlands	1.16	0.55
London	1.04	0.59
North East	0.81	2.00
North West	0.83	0.50
South East	0.43	0.42
South West	0.64	0.66
West Midlands	0.50	0.68
Yorks and Humberside	1.79	0.46
2007-08		
Eastern	0.51	0.80
East Midlands	0.38	2.29
London	0.26	2.17
North East	0.33	1.24
North West	0.27	1.07
South East	0.21	2.03
South West	0.32	1.27
West Midlands	0.41	1.19
Yorks and Humberside	0.31	0.51

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 860-61W, what contribution he expects Sport England to make to the £140 million fund announced on 6 June 2008 to encourage local

authorities to offer free swimming; and what percentage of the fund will come from *(a)* Lottery income and *(b)* grant-in-aid income. [224513]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* We are discussing with Sport England its potential contribution to the Free Swimming Programme.

None of the £140 million fund will come from lottery income.

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on work related to tourism in each year since 2002 in 2007-08 prices. [224961]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is as follows:

Grant in Aid Funding for VisitBritain and its predecessor bodies since 2001

	Total	*Total 2007-08 prices*[1]	*Overseas budget*	*Overseas budget 2007-08 prices*[1]	*Domestic budget*	*Domestic budget 2007-08 prices*[1]
2001-02	45.1	53.1	35.5	41.8	9.6	11.3
2002-03	47.1	53.7	35.5	40.5	11.6	13.2
2003-04	47.9	53.1	35.5	39.4	12.4	13.8
2004-05	48.4	52.3	35.5	38.3	12.9	13.9
2005-06	48.9	51.8	35.5	37.6	13.4	14.2
2006-07	49.9	51.4	35.5	36.6	14.4	14.8
2007-08	50.6	50.6[2]	35.5	35.5	15.1	15.1

[1] Adjusted using GDP deflator at market prices index. In each year since 2003-04 to 2007-08, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has contributed £3.6 million to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's (DBERR's) Single Programme budget (the "Single Pot") in respect of the tourism responsibilities of the eight Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) outside London. The Greater London Authority (GLA) is responsible for tourism in London. DCMS has provided £1.9 million each year, since 2001-02 to 2007-08, to the GLA to support the Mayor in the delivery of the GLA's statutory tourism duties. This does not include an additional £19 million in Treasury funding for the Million visitor overseas marketing campaign in 2001-02. This was matched by the private sector.

[2] For the period 2007-08, DCMS also gave £750,000 to VisitBritain to support a campaign to promote rural England following the floods and outbreak of foot and mouth of 2007.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 9 October 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC and (ii) ACORN data. [222053]

Mr. Thomas: The Department does not make any direct use of (i) MOSAIC data or (ii) ACORN data. The Department has used data that has been extracted by an independent company from M0SAIC for the purpose of segmenting audiences during the National Minimum Wage campaign.

I have asked the chief executives of the Department's agencies to respond direct to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 9 October 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2008/3618) asking what use (a) his Department and (b) its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data.

The Agency does not make any direct use of (i) Mosaic data or (ii) Acorn data.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 6 October 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House do not use MOSAIC or ACORN data.

Excel Airways

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he was informed that KPMG had resigned as auditors to Excel Airways Group PLC in October 2006; what steps he and the regulator took to investigate the reasons for this resignation; and if he will set up an investigation into the financial affairs of Excel and the successor XL Leisure Group. [224686]

Mr. McFadden: Companies House received KPMG's letter and statutory statement on 31 October 2006, and registered it on 7 November 2006. Companies House performed its statutory function of registering the document and placing it on the public record, but it had no duty, or power, to act on the contents of the document.

The administrators of XL Leisure Group plc, formerly called Excel Airways Group plc appointed on 12 September, have a duty to make a report within six months to the Secretary of State under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 on the conduct of its directors. In any event, the Insolvency Service, to which the administrators' report will be referred, is considering whether a Companies Act investigation is merited.

Post Offices: Fees and Charges

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the range in rates of the Annual Service Provision Cost (Franchise Fee) paid by branches of the Post Office is; [224852]

(2) how many franchised branches of the Post Office pay an annual service provision cost (franchise fee) in the range of *(a)* £0 to 10,000, *(b)* £10,001 to £20,000, *(c)* £20,001 to £30,000, *(d)* £30,001 to £40,000, *(e)* £40,001 to £50,000, *(f)* £50,001 to £60,000 and *(g)* £60,001 and above; [224853]

(3) on what basis the annual service provision cost franchise fee paid by branches of the Post Office is calculated; [225152]

(4) what criteria are used to set the annual service provision cost franchise fee paid by branches of the Post Office; [225153]

(5) what the annual percentage increase in the annual service provision cost franchise fee paid by branches of the Post Office was in each year since 2002. [225154]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Royal Mail: North West

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the economic impact on the City of Liverpool of Royal Mail's proposal to close the Coppers Hill mail sorting office; and if he will make a statement. [225742]

Mr. McFadden: The decision to close the Coppers Hill mail centre was an operational decision by Royal Mail management. While Royal Mail intends to close this centre, it will be opening three new delivery offices in Liverpool. The Government fully appreciates that the closure of mail centres or other Royal Mail facilities creates uncertainty for Royal Mail employees and their families. I understand that Royal Mail is discussing the impact of their proposals and decisions with employees and will work with them individually to understand their preferences for future employment within the business.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he was consulted on Royal Mail's review of mail sorting offices in the North West; and whether similar reviews are being carried out in other regions. [225743]

Mr. McFadden: The Review of the mail centres in the North West is an operational matter for Royal Mail. Ministers were not consulted about the specific decisions taken as it is for the Royal Mail management to decide how to run its operations efficiently. It is also for Royal Mail to decide how and when it should review its operations in other regions.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Construction

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local housing companies will be allowed to build directly managed council houses with secure tenancies and council set rents. [221048]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* The corporate aims and activities of individual local housing companies (LHC) will be decided by local authorities in agreement with their private sector partners. However, in general terms, LHCs are likely to be housing development, and possibly management, companies that build homes having a mix of tenures and types. It will be possible for LHCs to transfer homes into local authority ownership for them to manage and let on secure tenancies at rents set by the authority, if that is what they wish to do.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of targeting national indicator 191 on residual household waste on local authorities' propensity to adopt fortnightly rubbish collections. [222717]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

No assessment has been made of the effect of targeting national indicator 191 on residual household waste on local authorities' propensity to adopt alternate weekly collections of residual waste. Such decisions are entirely a matter for local authorities themselves.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use her Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [221977]

Mr. Khan: None.

Local Government Services: Public Participation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to encourage local authorities to open their facilities to the public. [225339]

John Healey: The Government are keen for local authorities to make available their facilities to local people. How this is achieved is a matter for local discretion.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of how many repossessions were avoided by the Government's mortgage rescue service in 2007-08. [225745]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's £200 million mortgage rescue scheme was announced by the Prime Minister on 2 September. It is anticipated that the scheme will be open for business by January 2009.

The scheme builds on existing Government initiatives aimed at supporting homeowners in financial difficulty and at risk of repossession. It is expected to assist up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable households, in England, likely to need state assistance were they to be repossessed.

Rodents: Pest Control

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the number of complaints to local authorities about rodent problems in each of the last 10 years. [222465]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

Neither DEFRA nor Communities and Local Government hold any records on the number of complaints to local authorities about rodent problems.

Waste Management: Contracts

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the account taken of competition issues and open tendering in the processes adopted by local authorities in selecting partnership agreements with private sector companies on waste management; and if she will make a statement. [222865]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

The procurement of local authority contracts is the responsibility of the individual authority and must follow EU procurement rules which promote competitive tendering. DEFRA's Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme (WIDP) offers PFI credits and transactor support as well as best practice guidance to authorities procuring residual waste infrastructure. WIDP always encourages authorities to structure their procurements to encourage competition in order to achieve value for money.

Waste Management: Liverpool

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with Liverpool City Council on the selection of their private sector waste management partner. [222866]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA has not had any discussions with Liverpool city council on the selection of their private sector waste management partner.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Sports: Greater London

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public money was spent on grassroots sports in the London boroughs of

(a) Southwark, *(b)* Lambeth, *(c)* Lewisham, *(d)* Newham, *(e)* Hackney, *(f)* Waltham Forest, *(g)* Tower Hamlets and *(h)* Greenwich in each of the last five years. [224186]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Funding for grassroots sport in London is available from a number of sources including local authority expenditure, Exchequer funding from DCMS via Sport England, and lottery funding via Sport England. The following figures do not include funding for national schemes that may have been spent within these boroughs. This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost. We do not hold information on local authority expenditure in the boroughs listed, but Sport England has advised that the amounts of Exchequer and lottery funding spent on grassroots sports in each borough, in each year of the last five years are as follows:

London borough/year	*Lottery (£)*	*Exchequer (£)*
Greenwich		
2003-04	129,551	—
2004-05	343,161	—
2005-06	2,193,000	5,833
2006-07	6,000,000	11,167
2007-08	235,500	—
Total	8,901,212	17,000
Hackney		
2003-04	—	35,000
2004-05	192,473	176,000
2005-06	—	192,000
2006-07	—	227,000
2007-08	—	—
Total	192,473	630,000
Lambeth		
2003-04	487,916	—
2004-05	3,093,282	—
2005-06	—	85,000
2006-07	293,855	42,490
2007-08	—	—
Total	3,875,053	127,490
Lewisham		
2003-04	551,773	—
2004-05	727,141	—
2005-06	173,165	—
2006-07	—	—
2007-08	—	—
Total	1,452,079	—
Newham		
2003-04	785,325	—
2004-05	1,198,251	—
2005-06	146,400	20,000
2006-07	50,000	—
2007-08	1,000,000	—
Total	3,179,978	20,000
Southwark		
2003-04	3,460,676	29,750
2004-05	318,516	139,152
2005-06	1,312,648	1,210,479
2006-07	1,587,213	1,876,568
2007-08	1,873,956	1,720,985
Total	8,553,009	4,976,934
Tower Hamlets		
2003-04	419,895	31,667
2004-05	8,414,074	35,000
2005-06	123,650	31,667
2006-07	375,237	3,333
2007-08	2,583,925	—
Total	11,916,781	101,667
Waltham Forest		
2003-04	3,509,891	48,400
2004-05	2,123,124	4,400
2005-06	697,265	—
2006-07	—	24,500
2007-08	—	—
Total	6,330,280	77,300

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Manpower

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel left *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force in each of the last five years. [225669]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on the number of Personnel leaving each of the UK regular armed forces can be found in tables 6, 7,9,10 and 11 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 4 - UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manning Report. TSP 4 is publishedquarterly and the most recent publication shows figures for the 12 months to 1 July 2008 and can be found at:

http://bravo.dasa.r.mil.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=67&pubTvpe=1&thiscontent=20&date=2008-08-28

Copies of TSP 4 are available in the Library of the House and also at

www.dasa.mod.uk

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps have been taken to assess alternatives to bear fur for use in guardsmen's busbies; and if he will make a statement. [225305]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by Baroness Taylor on 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column WA385, in the other place to the noble Lord Corbett.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the armed forces *(a)* Apache, *(b)* Lynx and *(c)* Gazelle vehicles were (i) fit for purpose and (ii) out of service at the latest date for which figures are available. [223847]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The percentages of the *(a)* Apache, *(b)* Lynx and *(c)* Gazelle aircraft considered (i) fit for purpose are detailed in the following table. For (ii), the term 'out of service' is not used in describing the management of helicopter fleets, however, for the purpose of this answer, 'out of service' is defined as those aircraft which are in the Depth fleet and those which are classified as non-effective aircraft.

July 2008	*Fit for purpose as percentage of Forward fleet total*	*Forward fleet as percentage of Departmental fleet total*	*Depth as percentage of Departmental fleet total*	*Effective fleet (Forward fleet + Depth fleet) as percentage of Departmental fleet total*	*Non-Effective as percentage of Departmental fleet total*
Apache AH1[1]	39	73	27	100	0
Lynx Mk3	60	56	28	83	17
Lynx Mk7	64	52	35	87	13
Lynx Mk8	70	57	37	94	6
Lynx Mk9	60	63	29	92	8
Gazelle	87	46	8	54	46

[1] The Apache Operational fit for purpose for July 2008 was 72 per cent. of the Forward fleet. The Apache fleet is exceeding fit for purpose targets in theatre and is fully delivering the required capability. Priority is always given to operational commitments.

Note:
The figures shown in the table are the average for the month of July 2008. The number of helicopters 'fit for purpose' will vary from day to day due, primarily, to routine maintenance requirements. Operational capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available.

The Departmental fleet comprises the effective and non-effective aircraft. The effective aircraft comprise those in the Forward fleet and those in the Depth fleet. Forward fleet are those aircraft that are available to the front-line command for operational and training purposes. Aircraft defined as 'fit for purpose' are those within the Forward fleet that are considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date at short notice. The Depth fleet are those aircraft which are undergoing modification, depth maintenance and repair, are in storage (including attrition aircraft), surplus aircraft awaiting classification as 'ineffective', or Trial aircraft.

Non-effective aircraft are those aircraft still on the Military Register which are declared surplus and awaiting disposal and are no longer expected to be flown.

Erskine Barracks

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to dispose of Erskine Barracks, Wilton, on the open market; and if he will make a statement. [225204]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Erskine Barracks has been identified for disposal in the Defence Estates Development Plan 2008. A small area of the site is not Ministry of Defence (MOD) freehold and this will be returned to the owner. It is anticipated that the MOD owned area will be disposed of on the Open Market, once the site has been vacated.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to place the order for the third tranche of the Typhoon. [225724]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Negotiations with partner nations and industry on tranche three are continuing; decisions will be taken once these negotiations are complete.

Members: Correspondence

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department has not written to the hon. Member for Thurrock with details of the plans to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the First World War's armistice on 11 November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [225397]

Mr. Kevan Jones: My predecessor wrote to the hon. Member on 25 February 2008 setting out our initial proposals. Plans for an event to mark the 90th anniversary of the Great War Armistice at the Cenotaph in London on 11 November 2008 are still being finalised but I intend to provide further information to the House next week.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Conflict of Interests

John Austin: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether any Commissioner has withdrawn from a meeting of the Commission or part of a meeting on the grounds of a possible conflict of interest in the last 10 years. [224675]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that there have been three occasions on which a Commissioner has withdrawn from discussions in a Commission meeting on the grounds of a possible conflict of interest.

In addition, the Commissioner who chairs the Boundary Committee for England always withdraws when decisions are taken on Boundary Committee reports and recommendations.

Political Parties: Finance

John Austin: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether he has made representations to the Commission about Parliament's view on the Commissions' work on political donations; and if he will make a statement. [224676]

Sir Peter Viggers: I personally have made no such representations.

The Electoral Commission is always willing to receive the views of Members of Parliament on any aspect of its work.

John Austin: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Commission is taking to ensure that all relevant information on its register of regulated donees is published on the Commission's website for the years 2001 to January 2008 including details of donations received, name of donor, name of donee, amount, type of donation and whether the donation was notified to the Commission on time. [224677]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is required under section 69 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 to maintain a public register of donations to regulated donees. The legislation requires that the register includes the name of the donor, the amount or value of any donation and the date the donation was accepted. The register also includes type of donation. All of these entries from 2001 can be viewed on the Commission's website.

The legislation does not require that donations reported late to the Commission be listed separately in the register. However, since 20 February 2008 the Commission has published a list each month of donations to regulated donees identifying those donations reported late.

In addition to this information the Commission has also published on its website, and placed in the House of Commons Library, a list of 527 donations to regulated donees reported late since 2001.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Commoners' Association is able to negotiate single farm payments on behalf of its members; and what progress is being made in enabling other associations to establish similar arrangements, with particular reference to Minchinhampton Commoners' Association. [222670]

Hilary Benn: At the present time Hatherleigh Moor Management Committee is the only commoners' association that has been able to claim under the single payment scheme on behalf of its members.

A number of other commoners' associations including Minchinhampton Commoners' Association have submitted requests to make applications on behalf of their members. These requests are currently under consideration.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many new cases of non-payment of Single Farm Payment claims since 2005 have been recorded in the last three months. [223902]

Hilary Benn: No new cases of non-payment of single farm payment claims since 2005 have been recorded in the last three months.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will provide financial assistance for farmers using additional fuel to dry grain following the 2008 harvest; [224148]

(2) what assistance from his Department is available to farmers who have lost their harvest due to extreme weather conditions in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [224150]

Hilary Benn: The Government have great sympathy for those farm businesses affected by the extremely wet weather that has hampered this year's harvest. However, the Government do not provide compensation for crop losses as a result of extreme weather or financial assistance for additional fuel used to dry grain.

Farmers have a range of risk and crisis management methods available, including tax averaging, diversification, some limited weather insurance, crop selection and 'self-insurance' through saving and borrowing. An increasing number of farmers are making use of such tools and DEFRA is continuing to support their take-up, including by sponsoring risk management workshops in partnership with the industry

Animals: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what means his Department ensures that animals imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research are free from infectious disease. [222775]

Hilary Benn: In general, there are no separate import conditions for animals imported for research purposes. They must just comply with the normal import requirements set out in the Importer Information Notes (IINs), that can be found on the DEFRA website.

Rabies-susceptible animals imported for research must be travelling to quarantine approved premises where they must remain in quarantine for six months.

The exceptions to these rules are rodents and lagomorphs (a category which includes animals such as rabbits), which when imported into the UK for research must be licensed by Animal Health and use Supplementary Certification, signed by the responsible veterinary or medical supervisor (or other appropriately qualified responsible person) of the research establishment/premises. This certification states that:

Prior to the export the rodents/lagomorphs have been in the research/breeding establishment for not less than 15 days;

The colony has been closed for not less than 15 days or the rodents/lagomorphs to be exported have been caged and separated or isolated from any new introductions for a period of 15 days;

For the 12 months prior to shipment, the rodents/lagomorphs have been kept in an establishment(s) where no case of rabies was reported for at least 12 months;

No experiments with rabies or rabies related virus have been carried out in the breeding/research establishment during the 12 months immediately prior to the date of export;

Showed no clinical signs of rabies on the day of shipment.

All of the said premises above must hold current Home Office approval and regular veterinary inspections are also required.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the UK has placed a moritorium on the importation of non-domestic animals from non-EU countries, with particular reference to South African white rhinoceroses, in advance of EU-wide agreement on the harmonisation of rules on such imports; which other EU member states have put such a moritorium in place; and if he will make a statement. [222849]

Hilary Benn: No moratorium was placed on imports of non-domestic animals from non-EU countries. I am not aware of any other member state having placed a moratorium on imports at this time. Harmonised rules on imports of such animals are currently being developed. A new EU directive 2008/73 came into force on 3 September 2008 which amends the EU legislation for imports of non-domestic animals and gives member states the powers to prepare national rules in event of no harmonised rules. Following an inquiry regarding the import of white rhinoceroses, a veterinary risk assessment was carried out, and a licence containing health conditions which the animals must meet to be eligible for import was prepared and sent to the South African veterinary authorities for agreement. We are awaiting a response.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultation he undertook with zoos and similar institutions, with particular reference to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, prior to establishing the moratorium on the importation of non-domestic animals from non-EU countries.; and if he will make a statement. [222959]

Hilary Benn: There is no moratorium on imports of non-domestic animals from non-EU countries. DEFRA holds regular quarterly meetings with zoos and other similar institutions to discuss matters of interest. Notes of these meetings are available on the DEFRA website. At the last two meetings—one of which was prior to Cotswold Wildlife Park advising of their wish to import non-domestic animals—the development of an EC proposal for harmonised rules was discussed. Since Cotswold Park contacted DEFRA, a risk assessment has been carried out and a draft licence has been sent to the South African veterinary authorities for agreement.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the monitoring of wildlife imports; [224176]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce illegal imports of wildlife. [224177]

Hilary Benn: Together with the Home Office DEFRA has recently approved a three-year financial settlement for the National Wildlife Crime Unit. This is a multi-agency unit which works closely with officers in Animal Health, who form the UK CITES Management Authority, and with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff in the UK Border Agency.

I am confident therefore that the intelligence gathering capability and the monitoring of wildlife imports has been greatly improved and that our ability not only to monitor wildlife imports but more importantly to prevent the illegal importation of wildlife has been greatly enhanced.

HMRC is responsible for the enforcement of import and export CITES controls at the UK frontier and has a specialist CITES team based at London Heathrow airport. Profiling and targeting activities are included within the team's responsibilities to combat illegal imports. The team also makes an active contribution to work on the UK national CITES priorities.

In accordance with animal health requirements, animals have to be accompanied by animal health and public health certification as appropriate. Animals are subjected to post-import tests based on risk, taking into account the species and the country of origin.

Avian Influenza: Disease Control

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps the Government is taking to work with producers of free range turkeys to reduce the likelihood of outbreaks of avian influenza; [222385]

(2) whether his Department has consulted the *(a)* National Farmers Union and *(b)* British Poultry Council as part of the process it is undertaking to draw up best practice guidelines to reduce the risk of an outbreak of avian influenza. [222386]

Hilary Benn: The Government have published extensive advice to all keepers of poultry and other kept birds on the steps they can take to minimise the risk of introducing avian influenza to their flocks. This advice is available on the DEFRA website and in leaflet format. These messages are particularly reinforced during incidents of avian influenza. We have also invited representatives of the poultry sector to work with us on the guidance and encourage poultry keepers to consider the contingency plans needed in the event they do find themselves in a disease control area. We applaud the joint initiative by the British Poultry Council, National Farmers Union, Quality British Turkey and Golden Promise (free range Traditional Farmfresh Turkeys) to produce and distribute best practice advice on housing, sighting, management of flocks and biosecurity for free range turkeys.

Batteries: Recycling

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of spent batteries which were recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [222739]

Hilary Benn: The UK currently recycles 90 per cent. of automotive and industrial batteries and approximately 3 per cent. or 600 tonnes, of waste portable batteries each year.

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with producers of batteries on EU Directive 2006/66 on the recycling of batteries. [222745]

Hilary Benn: DEFRA policy officials have been engaged in informal discussions with battery producers through periods of formal and informal consultation for the past 12 months. Discussions covered the various aspects of forthcoming producer obligations under the Batteries Directive and included the directive's recycling targets.

Beekeeping

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what departmental initiatives are in place to increase the number of honey beekeepers in the North East region. [223871]

Hilary Benn: New beekeepers can request a free apiary visit from their local bee inspector, who will provide help and advice. This is part of the National Bee Unit's (NBU) statutory inspection programme for notifiable diseases and pests. The NBU also provides a free comprehensive training and education programme for beekeepers to enable them to develop their skills and become more self-reliant in combating disease problems through improved bee husbandry. In 2007, beekeepers benefited from more than 26,000 colony inspections and an extensive programme of training, including over 600 technical events of which 134 were in the north east region), delivered by the NBU to help improve disease control through good apiary management.

Bees

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department is funding on the promotion of selective breeding of bees to encourage behaviour that will protect the viability of colonies. [224158]

Hilary Benn: DEFRA currently spends around £1.3 million per annum on a range of bee health measures to assist the beekeeping sector in England. There are no funds allocated specifically for research on selective breeding programmes.

However, this issue is addressed in the draft Bee Health Strategy, which has just completed its public consultation. It is envisaged that the strategy will be published in the autumn.

Bees: Diseases

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the resistance of northern brown honey bees to *(a)* the varroa mite, *(b)* foulbrood diseases, *(c)* colony collapse disorder and *(d)* small hive beetle. [223872]

Hilary Benn: No assessments regarding northern brown honey bees have been made. However, a project studying the genetic basis of resistance pathways in honey bees commenced at the National Bee Unit in 2007-08 and resistance to European foulbrood is currently being studied.

The cause of colony collapse disorder in the USA is unknown and there is no current evidence to suggest that the losses experienced in the UK are related. However, investigations into cases of colony losses this season where there is no readily available explanation are continuing as a high priority.

Research into small hive beetle is currently focussed on development of lures to facilitate early detection.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1772-3W, on bees: diseases; what further steps he plans to take following reports of further colony losses; [223979]

Hilary Benn: The proportion of colonies found dead at the beginning of September was 12.3 per cent. of nearly 23,000 colony inspections. This is slightly higher than at the same time in 2007. The NBU are continuing to investigate reports of significant colony losses as a high priority.

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to make infestation of beehives by the small hive beetle a notifiable condition. [224159]

Hilary Benn: The small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*), is a notifiable pest under the Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006 (SI 2006 No.342).

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department is funding on ways to combat the varroa mite. [224160]

Hilary Benn: Funding across DEFRA and the devolved administrations on bee health in 2007-08 is around £1.9 million, including £200,000 for research and development. This overall funding includes work to develop sustainable approaches for controlling both statutory and non-statutory pests. This year research projects include work on the taxonomy of UK and exotic honey bee viruses, further details of which can be found on the science pages of the DEFRA website.

Government investment in research on varroa exceeds £2.2 million over the past 12 years. It is proven that the best way of tackling varroa is by means of a careful programme of integrated pest management, and beekeepers need to learn to control it to protect their bee colonies. The National Bee Unit assists beekeepers in improved bee husbandry, and has produced a comprehensive advisory leaflet on the subject.

The priorities for future funding will be determined in the context of developing a bee health strategy in liaison with stakeholders.

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the risk of colony collapse disorder affecting the bee industry. [224161]

Hilary Benn: The proportion of colonies found dead at the beginning of September was 12.3 per cent., based on nearly 23,000 colony inspections. This is slightly higher than at the same time in 2007. The NBU are continuing to investigate reports of significant colony losses as a high priority.

Birds: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the animal welfare implications of the types of mesh used in the construction of bird feeders; [222361]

(2) what steps his Department is taking in response to representations received on the risks of certain types of mesh on bird feeders to birds; [222362]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the risks to birds of certain types of mesh on bird feeders; what representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [222364]

Hilary Benn: DEFRA has not carried out any research on the animal welfare aspects of the types of mesh used in the construction of bird feeders or made an assessment of risks to birds of certain types of mesh. I am not aware of any representations on this issue.

Cetaceans: Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* dolphins and *(b)* porpoises died as a result of by-catch in fishing nets in UK waters in the latest period for which figures are available; and what target his Department has to reduce mortality rates in each case. [222724]

Hilary Benn: In August 2008 the UK submitted to the European Commission its annual report on the implementation of Council Regulation 812/2004 on cetacean by-catch. The report was produced by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) as part of their scientific research contract with DEFRA and it summarises cetacean by-catch observations undertaken in 2006-07.

The report states that no cetacean by-catch was observed in the fleet segments designated under Council Regulation 812/2004 on cetacean by-catch in the period of 2006-07. The Annual Report of the United Kingdom to the European Commission on the implementation of Council Regulation 812/2004 on cetacean by-catch is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/fisheries/conservation/cetaceans.htm.

This report also includes data on cetacean by-catch observed under the obligations of the Habitats Directive.

DEFRA and the devolved administrations' fisheries departments published the UK Small Cetacean By-catch Response Strategy in March 2003, which highlights the Government's thinking on how to tackle cetacean by-catch in certain fisheries in UK waters. An update on specific targets and progress to date on implementing the strategy can also be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/fisheries/conservation/cetaceans.htm.

Coastal Areas: Land

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1005W, on coastal areas: land, what powers will be available to local communities to affect the poisoning of the coastal corridor. [224281]

Hilary Benn: The draft Marine Bill proposes that Natural England will be able to identify a coastal route and associated coastal margin around the English coast, to which there will be a right of access on foot.

The Bill requires Natural England to consult affected landowners before preparing its coastal access report which it has to submit to the Secretary of State. The report will include details of the route, of associated spreading room and of any proposals for exclusions and restrictions on access. In addition, the landowner and access authorities will be given an opportunity to make representations about matters in the coastal access reports. The final decision on the route and margin will be taken by the Secretary of State after consultation and representations have been made on any proposals from Natural England.

Cremation: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of implementing Environmental Protection guidance note PG5/2(04) on local authority crematorium fees. [222444]

Hilary Benn: The costs of implementing controls over mercury emissions, which comprise the main additional requirements of guidance note PG5/2(04), as amended in 2005, were set out in two consultation papers published in 2003 and 2004, which can be found on the DEFRA website. The 2003 estimate was £55 per cremation, which was substantially reduced when the decision was taken to apply the requirements to only 50 per cent. of cremations.

Crops

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on farmers of the levels of rainfall over the 2008 harvest season; and if he will make a statement. [224151]

Hilary Benn: The 2008 harvest period has been one of the wettest on record with rainfall around double normal levels, which slowed progress with the harvest. The Government have taken action to help farmers in England by granting a temporary exemption from the cross compliance standard to enable them to use mechanical equipment and vehicles on waterlogged soils in order to complete the harvest. We are continuing to monitor developments closely, but it is still too early to make a full assessment of the impact of the wet weather on yield and crop quality.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many notifications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies made to the Information Commissioner following the loss or mishandling of personal information or data in each of the last three years; and what was notified in each case. [222897]

Hilary Benn: DEFRA has published details of the personal data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its 2008 Departmental Report published on 19 May 2008.

Before November 2007 the Information Commissioner's Office did not specifically keep records of instances of security breaches.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in Government.

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [221935]

Hilary Benn: The DEFRA Survey of Public Attitudes and Behaviours toward the Environment 2007 included both ACORN and MOSAIC in the data coding to facilitate secondary analysis.

ACORN and MOSAIC datasets have also been used by third parties working on our behalf, for example, for DEFRA-funded research related to perceptions of quality of life.

Further information is not held centrally within DEFRA and to obtain this would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on departmental home working, if he will make it his policy to collate and maintain central records of home working by his Department's staff. [222461]

Hilary Benn: All staff at DEFRA can apply to work flexibly, including working from home.

As requests to work from home are submitted on an informal basis for approval within the local business area, we do not monitor applications and we have no plans to change this and collate and maintain central records.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what types of data have been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [221941]

Hilary Benn: Core information produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and its agencies can be re-used free of charge under the terms of the PSI Click-Use Licence which is administered by the Office of Public Sector Information in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

Neither DEFRA, nor its agencies, have sold any data or information under these Regulations in the last 12 months.

Departmental Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [221936]

Hilary Benn: The Department currently holds 14 residential dwellings available for use by civil servants employed within the Department. The residential accommodation comprises houses, flats and shared residences.

With the exception of a single dwelling in Reading, the accommodation (13 units) is situated at the Veterinary Laboratory Agency research complex in Weybridge.

The provision of residential accommodation forms part of the Veterinary Laboratory Agency's key worker policy developed to support the ongoing research.

The majority of staff currently residing in Department held accommodation are at higher executive and executive officer grades, however accommodation is allocated subject to availability and based upon business need.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been seconded to public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies in each of the last five years. [222201]

Hilary Benn: The numbers of staff that have been seconded out of DEFRA and its agencies to public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies in the last five years are shown in the following table:

	Number
2004	0
2005	3
2006	3
2007	2
2008	0

The available data do not split the numbers between DEFRA and its agencies.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff from public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies have been seconded to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [222202]

Hilary Benn: The following number of staff have been seconded to DEFRA and its agencies from public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies in the last five years:

	Number
2004	3
2005	8
2006	2
2007	2
2008	3

The available data do not split the numbers between DEFRA and its agencies.

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies

have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [221950]

Hilary Benn: Figures on public authority use of covert investigation techniques controlled by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) are published annually by the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Service Commissioner who each have particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the House Library on 22 July. The figures provided in the reports are not broken down by individual public authority use of specific covert technique as, depending on the particular technique and authority using it, this could either reveal sensitivities or be misleading. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant Commissioner.

I can confirm that DEFRA does not have the power to apply for or conduct intrusive surveillance.

Dolphins

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned on the *(a)* stranding and *(b)* death of dolphins in the last three years; and what plans he has to commission further such research. [223971]

Hilary Benn: For over 15 years, the Government have funded studies by the Natural History Museum and Institute of Zoology on trends in cetacean strandings and causes of death around the UK coastline.

Strandings data are obtained and reported by the Natural History Museum in partnership with the Institute of Zoology and Scottish Agricultural College and Marine Environmental Monitoring. Annual reports of the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) are available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/resprog/findings/index.htm

Under this research contract, not only are all stranded animals recorded, but post-mortem examinations are carried out on some of the animal carcasses to establish the exact cause of death. Abundance estimates tell us populations of studied cetaceans in UK waters have not changed significantly over the past 10 years.

The research conducted under this contract was renewed last April and runs until 2010 at a cost of over £1 million.

From 2000 to date, the UK has put over £2 million into researching by-catch mitigation measures and monitoring by-catch on vessels through observers, to try to identify those fisheries responsible for high levels of cetacean by-catch, and mitigation measures that are effective at deterring cetaceans over the long-term and are safe and cost-effective for the industry.

DEFRA has implemented a comprehensive system of by-catch monitoring under the requirements of the EC habitats directive and under Council Regulation 812/2004. The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) produces annual reports on this research for DEFRA (which are also available on the website). Furthermore, SMRU has recently undertaken research on behalf of DEFRA into the effects of a new design of acoustic deterrent device ('pingers') on porpoise and dolphin distribution. These 'super-pingers' are larger, and therefore, fewer devices are required, reducing deployment problems. We hope to have more details on the efficacy of these new pingers by spring 2009.

In addition to this work, SMRU has also undertaken a by-catch mitigation research project, which has been looking at:

Providing updated estimates of marine mammal by-catch for all relevant fishery sectors through analysis of fleet effort data; existing by-catch rate data; and through further monitoring of UK fisheries as determined under the UK's Small Cetacean by-catch Response Strategy;

Investigating the impact of by-catch and other indirect effects of UK fisheries on marine mammal populations, and exploring ways of addressing the limits to by-catch from a management perspective; and

Exploring as many research avenues as practicable to search for ways of changing fishing gear design or fishing tactics in order to minimise marine mammal by-catch.

The final report on this research project is expected to be made available publicly by the end of 2008. A new research contract on this issue has recently been agreed with SMRU and will run until April 2011.

Domestic Waste: Recycling

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average time per year spent by a household in sorting and recycling rubbish. [224311]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* No such estimate has been made.

Domestic Waste: Waste Management

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have reinstated weekly collections of residual household rubbish in the last 12 months *(a)* in whole and *(b)* in part for summer months according to records held by (i) his Department and (ii) the Waste and Resources Action Programme. [222870]

Hilary Benn: The information is as follows.

(i) We are aware that the following councils have made changes in the last 12 months:

Blackburn with Darwen council has re-instated weekly collections of residual waste within the last 12 months.

Following trials of an alternate weekly collection service in parts of their districts, East Cambridgeshire council and Rushmoor council have decided to retain weekly collections of refuse.

(ii) Epping Forest—operates alternate weekly collections and has re-instated weekly residual waste collections over the summer months.

Gedling—operates alternate weekly collections and has re-instated weekly residual waste collections over the summer months (June-September).

This summer City of Lincoln re-instated, on a trial basis, a weekly collection of residual waste in the areas of the city that receive an alternate weekly collection service.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities plan to end weekly collections of residual household rubbish in the next 12 months, or pilot such policies, according to records held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme. [222872]

Hilary Benn: DEFRA and WRAP hold no such records. The records of alternate weekly collections log what collections have taken place, but we do not have a record of local authorities' prospective plans.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221843]

Hilary Benn: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. Information on what contracts DEFRA's agencies have with EDF, and how much those agencies paid to EDF since 2001 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. From information held centrally the core-Department's financial system records the following expenditure profile with EDF:

£

Financial year	*EDF Energy*	*EDF Energy Customer Field Services*	*EDF Energy Networks*
2003-04	—	—	—
2004-05	—	—	650,904
2005-06	727,475	1,597	700,586
2006-07	1,098,560	508	329,906
2007-08	175,480	—	—

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222268]

Hilary Benn: This Government are firmly committed to the importance of the EU in delivering on 21st century challenges. The EU is of central importance to the work of HM Government across all Departments. It is relevant to a wide range of policy areas, and to the work of many Government officials. As such, the specific information requested is not held centrally, and to provide it would involve disproportionate costs.

Fisheries: International Co-operation

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the compatibility with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of UK fishing in the waters of Western Sahara. [223777]

Hilary Benn: Before the UK signed up to the agreement in 2006, the EU took legal advice from the United Nations. It ruled that the EU Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement was compatible with international law. The sea areas covered by this agreement are identical to those covered by the original agreement which was adopted in 1999.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the work of the Joint Committee established under Article 10 of the EU/Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement. [223778]

Hilary Benn: No formal assessment has yet been made of the effectiveness of the Joint Committee set up under the EU Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement. However, officials' experience of the committee to date suggests that it is a useful way of monitoring the effectiveness of the fisheries agreement with Morocco.

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of fixed quota allocation units are held by companies and individuals not directly engaged in fishing activities. [224530]

Hilary Benn: Fixed quota allocation (FQA) units are associated with fishing vessel licences. Given the way the details of fishermen in possession of licences are recorded, it is not possible to accurately determine an individual or company's holding of FQA units at any given time. Gathering this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Flood Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what opportunities exist for demonstration projects to develop solutions to downstream flooding problems; what criteria are in place for funding support either by his Department or the Environment Agency; and what particular assistance may be available to communities in the Gloucestershire area because of the floods in July 2007. [222399]

Hilary Benn: The Government's budget for flood management is targeted to achieve the maximum possible benefit. DEFRA guidance directs delivery bodies to consider all options at a catchment scale to reduce downstream flooding problems. In order to encourage the adoption of such projects at a local scale, on 4 July, I announced that £500,000 will be made available to fund a project to demonstrate how land management change can reduce downstream flooding. Outline proposals were invited by 29 August with a view to selecting a number of projects for more detailed assessment before committing funding for implementation. The criteria for this project are that:

there is a recognised flooding problem that could be helped by changes proposed;

the scheme will produce multiple benefits;

project partners are able to secure the land management changes necessary; and

DEFRA's funding will be supplemented by contributions from other sources where appropriate, recognising multiple benefits of the project.

In the meantime the Environment Agency is promoting and supporting catchment projects at a local level. For example, the Environment Agency recently assisted Water 21, an environmental organisation engaged by local residents, which was looking to secure funding for works in the wider Slad Brook catchment in Gloucestershire. The Environment Agency provided river and general catchment data, gave advice on the technical aspects of its work and guidance on proposed actions. The project covers a number of aspects including measures to reduce flooding downstream in Stroud.

The Environment Agency also has a proposal to construct a flood storage reservoir upstream of New Mills Trading Estate on the Slad Brook to reduce flooding in the town. The £500,000 proposal has recently been submitted to the Severn Trent Regional Flood Defence Committee for local funding in 2009-10. The project is competing against a number of other projects in the region and elsewhere. Funding is limited and the projects supported will be selected on their merits against the criteria above. We expect to make a decision in October on which project or projects will taken forward for further assessment before confirming funding for delivery in the new year.

Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of flood defences in *(a)* Morpeth, *(b)* Pickering and *(c)* other areas affected by flooding in September 2008. [224196]

Hilary Benn: Current flood protection varies for different parts of Morpeth, but it is estimated that the average flood defence provides protection against a one in 60 year event. The Environment Agency is currently examining temporary emergency works that may be required.

The Environment Agency is currently at the end of year one (planning phase) of a four year programme to develop a new scheme to protect Morpeth. Early indications are that an investment of between £13 million and £15 million may be required. The Environment Agency is exploring an accelerated time scale for construction of the works.

There are currently no flood defences in Pickering. However the Environment Agency has recently supported a bid for funding to look at the possibility of reducing flows in the watercourse through tree planting in upland areas.

The following schemes are examples of where effective flood defence helped communities in the recent September flood event:

Up to 21,000 homes at River Taff, Cardiff

Up to 4,600 homes at River Wye, Hereford

Up to 2,500 homes at River Rhondda, Ferndale

Up to 2,100 homes at River Birket, Wirral

Up to 650 homes at Sankey Brook, Warrington

Up to 630 homes at Cringle Brook, Manchester

Up to 400 homes at Bangor on Dee

Up to 3,000 homes In Yorkshire

Up to 650 homes on the Tees at Yarm

Up to 600 homes in York

As a matter of course the Environment Agency will be carrying out a full and systematic review of its assets. All flood defences that were tested will be inspected to ensure they meet the requirements of their design standard.

Floods: Freedom of Information

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information on areas subject to flood risk, held by the Environment Agency, is *(a)* freely available to the public and *(b)* purchasable from the Agency. [222868]

Hilary Benn: Environment Agency flood risk information can be requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and, in most cases, this will be free of charge.

Floods: Insurance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of households which are not eligible for insurance against flooding; what steps the Government plan to take to assist such households; and if he will make a statement. [222509]

Hilary Benn: Flood insurance is included as standard for virtually all household insurance policies in the UK. We have no plans to subsidise flood insurance or act as an insurer of last resort, as it is unlikely to be sustainable or cost-effective for us to do so.

Floods: River Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who is responsible for the maintenance of flood defences on the north bank of the River Humber. [223792]

Hilary Benn: The following table shows the responsibility for the maintenance of flood defences on the north bank of the River Humber. It details the length in metres of flood defence protection in each flood area and the organisation responsible for its maintenance.

Area	*Responsibility*	*Metres*
Easington and Kilnsea	Environment Agency	6,744
	Local authority (ERYC)	217
	Private	320
	Total	7,281
Skeffling	Environment Agency	4,754
	Total	4,754
Sunk Island	Environment Agency Associated	2,374
	Crown	6,025
	Environment Agency and Crown	1,054
	British Ports	2,382

Area	Responsibility	Metres
	Total	11,835
Stone Creek to Paull Holme Strays	Environment Agency	4,503
	Crown	7,059
	Total	11,562
Hull East (including Paull village)	Environment Agency	6,603
	Local authority (Hull CC and ERYC)	1,875
	Associated British Ports	1,736
	Private	3,017
	Total	13,231
Hull West	Environment Agency	178
	Local authority (Hull CC)	309
	Highways Agency	634
	Private	6,834
	Total	8,403
Hessle frontage	Local authority (ERYC)	1,578
	Private	894
	Total	2,472
North Ferriby	Environment Agency	60
	Local authority (ERYC)	831
	Railway	1,507
	Private	774
	Total	3,172
Brough	Environment Agency	8,640
	Private	457
	Total	9,097
Brough Haven to Weighton Lock	Associated British Ports	3,358
	Private	144
	Total	3,502
Weighton Lock to Boothferry Bridge	Environment Agency	21,733
	Private	2,852
	Total	24,585

Food Supply: Animal Feed

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of production for each *(a)* food stock and *(b)* animal feed stock type in (i) 2008, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2006, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2004; and if he will make a statement. [224149]

Hilary Benn: Information on the level of UK production of the major crop and livestock products for the calendar years 2004 to 2007, in thousand tonnes, which is published in "Agriculture in the United Kingdom", is presented in the following table. It should be noted that the figures for 2007 are provisional and 2008 data will not be published in full until around March 2009.

Certain items have food uses only i.e. fruit, vegetables, potatoes and all of the livestock products. Peas harvested dry and field beans are used for animal feed only. In the case of sugar beet and oilseed rape, these are processed to make sugar and oils respectively which are used for food and it is the by-products (pulp, molasses, meal/cake) which are used for animal feed. Cereals have a dual use for food and animal feed. The approximate proportions used within the food and animal feed sector are given in the second table.

Thousand tonnes

UK crop and livestock production (a)	*2004*[1]	*2005*[1]	*2006*[1]	*2007*[1]
Wheat (b)	15,473	14,863	14,735	13,137
Barley (b)	5,816	5,495	5,239	5,079
Oats (b)	627	532	728	712
Oilseed Rape (c)	1,607	1,898	1,890	2,108
Sugar Beet	9,042	8,687	7,400	7,525
Sugar (c)	1,390	1,341	1,157	1,164
Peas for harvesting dry (d)	176	156	122	80
Field beans (d)	661	705	617	375
Fresh vegetables (e)	2,591	2,737	2,650	2,526
Fresh fruit (e)	294	363	392	398
Potatoes (e)	6,246	5,979	5,727	5,635
Milk - volume for human consumption (e)	13,930	13,839	13,714	13,443
Hen eggs (e)	892	884	853	825
Cattle and calves beef and veal (e)	2,361	2,409	2,702	2,723
Pigs and pigmeat (e)	8,841	8,709	8,731	9,084
Sheep and lambs mutton and lamb (e)	15,493	16,539	16,590	15,979
Poultry and poultrymeat (e)	882	903	880	871

[1] Provisional
(a) These figures only relate to UK production and do not include imports or exports.
(b) Wheat, barley and oats can be used for both food and animal feed.
(c) The by-products from these industries are used in the manufacture of animal feed.
(d) Used within the animal feed sector only.
(e) Used within the food sector only.

In terms of total domestic uses, which will take into account imports and exports, the approximate proportions of the cereals crops used within the food and animal feed sector are given in the table. The remainder covers other uses such as seed.

Crop	*Food*	*Feed*
Wheat	42	51
Barley	35	63
Oats	59	38

A link to the publication "Agriculture in the United Kingdom" is provided which gives access to detailed information on production, supply and use.

https://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/publications/auk/default.asp

Higher Civil Servants

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people his Department employs on an annual salary of over £100,000. [222321]

Hilary Benn: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs employs a total of 18 staff on an annual salary of over £100,000 out of a total of 2,900 staff in the Department.

Inland Waterways: Moorings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many British Waterways licensed residential moorings there are in England; and where they are located. [222400]

Hilary Benn: British Waterways directly operates 41 residential mooring sites accommodating a total of 420 authorised residential moorings located on the following waterways in England:

	Number
Aire and Calder Navigation	6
Birmingham and Fazeley Canal	7
Birmingham Canal Navigations	87
Calder and Hebble Navigation	13
Coventry Canal	14
Fossdyke Navigation	20
Grand Union Canal Mainline	71
Grand Union, Leicester Line	5
Lee and Stort Navigation	13
Oxford Canal	56
Regents Canal and GU Paddington Arm	86
Sheffield and Tinsley Canal	5
Shropshire Union Canal	3
Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal	7
Worcester and Birmingham Canal	27
Total	420

British Waterways is unable to maintain data on the residential status of privately operated sites.

Joint Waste Authorities

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a list of the organisations that responded to the consultation on Joint Waste Authorities' regulations and guidance. [222860]

Hilary Benn: The following is the list of respondents to the Consultation on draft regulations and draft guidance for proposals for establishing Joint Waste Authorities in England. A copy is being placed in the Library of the House.

ALCO (formerly Association of London Cleansing Officers)
Ashford Borough Council
Association of North Yorkshire Councils
Audit Commission
Barnsley Metropolitan District Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Canterbury City Council
Chichester District Council
City of London
County Surveyors Society
Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership
Dartford Borough Council
Derbyshire County Council
Devon County Council
Dorset Waste Partnership
East London Waste Authority
East Sussex County Council
Environment Agency
Environmental Services Association
Essex County Council
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority
Guildford Borough Council
Halton Borough Council
Hampshire Collection and Waste Disposal (Project Integra)
Harrogate Borough Council
Hastings Borough Council
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Joint Waste Forum
Hertfordshire County Council
Indecon Limited
Kent County Council
Kent Waste Partnership
Knowsley District Council
Lancashire Waste Partnership
Lancaster City Council
LARAC
London Borough of Croydon
London Borough of Islington
London Borough of Wandsworth
Lewes District Council
Local Government Ombudsman
London Councils
Maidstone Borough Council
Merseyside Waste Partnership
Milton Keynes Council
National Association of Waste Disposal Officers
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council
Norfolk County Council
North London Waste Authority
Northamptonshire County Council
Northamptonshire Waste Partnership
Nottinghamshire County Council
North West Leicestershire District Council
Partnership for Buckinghamshire
Portsmouth City Council
re3 Partnership (Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell Forest)
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Rother District Council
Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames
Sevenoaks District Council
Shropshire Waste Partnership
Somerset Waste Partnership
South London Waste Partnership
Staffordshire Joint Waste Management Board

Standards Board
Stratford on Avon District Council
Suffolk Waste Partnership
Swale Borough Council
Thanet District Council
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Valpak
Veolia Environmental Services (UK) Plc
West Sussex County Council
Warwickshire County Council
Wealden District Council
Wellingborough Borough Council
Western Riverside Waste Authority
Woking Borough Council
York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership
Two interested individuals (including a waste manager).

Litter: Fixed Penalties

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many litter clearance notices were issued in the last year for which figures are available; [222857]

(2) what proportion of fines for littering were paid in the last year for which figures are available. [222858]

Hilary Benn: 119 litter clearing notices were issued by local authorities between April 2006 and March 2007 and in the reporting year ending March 2006, this is the first year that litter clearing notices were available to local authorities to use. Litter clearing notices were introduced by an amendment to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and commenced on 6 April 2006.

In the reporting year ending March 2006, 54.5 per cent. of fixed penalty notices for littering were paid. In the year ending March 2007, 77 per cent. were paid.

Detailed statistics about fines for littering can be found on the DEFRA website.

Nature Conservation: Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if his Department will offer conservation advice and support to the Government of Cambodia to reduce the number of primates in Cambodia on the ICUN red list of threatened species; [223923]

(2) if his Department will offer conservation advice and support to the Government of Vietnam to reduce the number of primates in Vietnam on the ICUN red list of threatened species; [223924]

(3) if his Department will offer conservation advice and support to the Government of Laos to reduce the number of primates in Laos on the ICUN red list of threatened species. [223925]

Hilary Benn: The UK has not been approached to offer advice or support to the three named countries but would consider any approach if one were received.

In particular, DEFRA supports two funding mechanisms under which conservation projects in these countries would be eligible: the Darwin Initiative and the Flagship Species Fund. To date the Darwin Initiative has provided £65 million to over 464 projects around the world. This includes a project in Vietnam which has specifically provided funding for the conservation of the Hoang Lien Mountain Ecosystem, which included work on primate conservation. The Flagship Species Fund has also supported projects in Vietnam, to conserve the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey and the Cao Vit gibbon.

Peat

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the size of world peat reserves in *(a)* 1998 and *(b)* 2008. [222501]

Hilary Benn: We have not undertaken our own assessment of global peat reserves. However, there has been a recent assessment (2005-2007) undertaken by Wetlands International and the Global Environment Centre funded by the United Nations Environment Programme—Global Environment Facility.

This estimates that global peatlands cover four million square kilometres (approximately 3 per cent. of the world's land area) and is being lost at a rate of approximately 4,000 square kilometres per year. There is no comparable figure for 1998.

Pest Control: Railways

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with Network Rail on the control of pests and noxious plants on Network Rail property. [223697]

Hilary Benn: DEFRA and Network Rail are members of the project board for research into potential agents for the natural control of Japanese knotweed, and both were represented at a meeting about a similar project for the control of Himalayan balsam. However, DEFRA has had no discussions with Network Rail specifically about controlling invasive non-native pests and plants or the five injurious weeds covered by the Weeds Act 1959 on its land.

Poultry: EU Law

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what stocking density maximum for broiler chickens will be used in implementing the EU Broiler Chicken Directive; and if he will make a statement. [222547]

Hilary Benn: A full public consultation will be undertaken early next year on the regulations that will implement the EU Broiler Chicken Directive, including provisions on stocking density.

Recreation Spaces

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to increase protection of public green spaces. [221828]

Hilary Benn: The planning system provides strong protection for open spaces that communities need. Planning Policy Guidance Note 17; 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation' states that existing open spaces and land should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken by the local authority which has clearly shown the open space or land to be surplus to the requirements of the local community, taking into account all the functions that open space can perform.

PPG17 advises local authorities to make provision for all types of public open space and expects local authorities to undertake robust assessments of local needs and audits of existing open space and to establish standards for new provision. On the basis of these assessments and audits, local authorities should plan to meet future needs of their population (e.g. linked to new housing developments) and can place standards of provision in their development plan. 'Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing' says that local planning authorities should have clear policies for the protection and creation of open space, and new housing developments should incorporate sufficient provision where such spaces are not already adequately provided within easy access of the new housing.

Where land is registered as a town or village green, the land is protected from development in perpetuity. Section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 was commenced in England in April last year, in line with commitments given during the Bill's passage through Parliament, to clarify the criteria for the registration of greens.

Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 contains mainly registration-related provisions which allow for the registers to be updated to create an accurate record of common land and greens. Accurate registers will underpin our objective to provide for the protection and better management of commons and greens for generations to come. Part 1 is being piloted from October 2008 with a view to a staged national commencement from 2010.

Sewers: Churches

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what exemptions from charges for *(a)* rainwater and *(b)* sewage services apply to properties owned by churches; what the charitable treatment of churches is in respect of charges for (i) water run-off and (ii) sewerage services; and if he will make a statement. [218640]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 14 July 2008]:* Places of public religious worship, and buildings used in connection with them, were traditionally zero rated under the rateable value system of charging, meaning that they did not have to pay surface water drainage (SWD) charges.

In 2000 the then Secretary of State issued guidance on matters to be taken into account by Ofwat in agreeing companies' charging schemes, including charging non-household users that are not businesses, including places of worship, community facilities, charities and voluntary bodies. The guidance stated that those making similar demands on a service should be charged on the same basis. It also made clear that where premises impose customer-related costs in line with or lower than those of typical households, they should be able to benefit from tariffs which reflect their small demand on the water system. It also stated that the phasing in of any large, sudden changes in charges should be considered.

Ministers are currently reviewing the impact of these changes.

Sheep: Ear Tagging

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on sheep ear tag inspections since December 2007. [223695]

Hilary Benn: From 1 January 2008 to 10 September 2008 we have spent £334,331.22 on statutory sheep and goat identification inspections.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to ensure that inspectors planning to carry out inspections of sheep tags on mixed farms take account of the farm year cycle. [223696]

Hilary Benn: The Rural Payments Agency Inspectorate plans to complete the majority of sheep and goat inspections during the winter months when livestock are more readily available for inspection. However, due to the number and geographical distribution of inspections required to be completed and competing scheme inspection pressures, a minority of inspections will be completed during the summer months. In these instances the inspectorate endeavours to work with the keeper to minimise any disruption to other farming operations. All sheep and goat identification inspections must be undertaken unannounced, in practice this means an inspector can provide a maximum of 48 hours' notice.

South East

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on services, broken down by type, in *(a)* Dartford Borough, *(b)* Kent Thameside, *(c)* the Thames Gateway, *(d)* Kent County Council area and *(e)* the South East region in each of the last five years. [222445]

Hilary Benn: Services for which DEFRA has a responsibility are normally provided by local authorities and supported through formula grant administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Formula grant, which comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula Police Grant, where appropriate, is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities are free to spend this on any service so long as they meet their statutory obligations. Spending decisions for the local areas mentioned are a matter for the local authorities concerned.

In addition, DEFRA provides some limited direct support to local authorities, such as small capital grants for air quality monitoring and contaminated land remediation. DEFRA also provides funding to the regional development agencies, including the South East of England Development Agency, through the Single Programme.

Full details of the funding provided by DEFRA to the local authorities named, and to the south east region as a whole, over the last five years, are available only at disproportionate cost.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222173]

Hilary Benn: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards, and these give easy to use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

Trees: Genetically Modified Organisms

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the environmental implications of the commercial production of GM trees. [221923]

Hilary Benn: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) on 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 31W.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have received funding from the Waste and Resources Action Programme in the last two years. [222742]

Hilary Benn: The Waste and Resources Action Programme provided funding to the following individual local authorities, or local authority partnerships, during the two years of their third business plan (April 2006 to March 2008):

Individual local authorities

Adur District Council (and Worthing Borough Council)
Amber Valley Borough Council
Arun District Council
Barnet London Borough Council
Bath and North East Somerset Council
Bedfordshire County Council
Bexley London Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Braintree District Council
Brent London Borough Council
Bristol City Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Corby Borough Council
Dartford Borough Council
Derby City Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Dover District Council
Ealing London Borough Council
East Devon District Council
East Hertfordshire District Council
East Lindsey District Council
Eastleigh Borough Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Hackney London Borough Council
Hampshire County Council
Havering London Borough Council
Knowsley Borough Council
Lewisham London Borough Council
Liverpool City Council
Luton Borough Council
Melton Borough Council
Middlesbrough Council
Newcastle City Council
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council
Newham London Borough Council
Northumberland County Council
Norwich City Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Oxford City Council
Poole Borough Council
Preston City Council
Redbridge London Borough Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Redditch Borough Council
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Rochford District Council
Rutland County Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
Sheffield City Council
Slough Borough Council
South Shropshire District Council
Southwark London Borough Council
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Stevenage Borough Council
Stockton on Tees Borough Council
Stoke on Trent City Council
Swale Borough Council
Tamworth Borough Council
Teesdale District Council
Tower Hamlets London Borough Council
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Waveney District Council
Wear Valley District Council
West Devon Borough Council
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Wirral Borough Council
York City Council

Local authority partnerships (listed by lead authority)

Buckinghamshire County Council (+ 4 partner Councils)
Cheltenham Borough Council (+ 6)
Cherwell District Council (+ 5)
Cumbria County Council (+ 6)
Dorset County Council (+6)
Durham County Council (+ 5)
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (+ 9)
North London Waste Authority (+ 4)
Somerset County Council (+ 5)

South London Waste Partnership (comprising Kingston upon Thames, Sutton, Croydon and Merton)

Staffordshire County Council (+ 5)

Surrey Waste Partnership (+ 3)

Western Riverside Waste Authority (+ 4)

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Waste and Resources Action Programme in meeting its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [222744]

Hilary Benn: The Government-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) sets itself targets—which are agreed with its funders, DEFRA and the devolved Governments—and these are written into each of its business plans. WRAP's fourth business plan was published earlier this year, and sets out its targets for the three-year period from April 2008 to March 2011.

The extent of WRAP's delivery against its targets is set out annually in reports which are published by WRAP, and are publicly available on its website. The next such report will be published in October, and will set out how WRAP has performed against the targets contained in its third business plan, which covered the period April 2006 to March 2008.

Prior to the publication of that report, it is possible, on the basis of WRAP's annual review for 2006-07, to report that WRAP has made it possible for the recycling industry to process an extra 5.8 million tonnes of materials per year. This consists of 4.17 million tonnes of aggregate; enough to build 83,000 new homes, 507,000 tonnes of wood, constituting 42 per cent. of the UK's domestic capacity, 495,000 tonnes of paper, 349,000 tonnes of compost, 137,000 tonnes of glass and 130,000 tonnes of plastic, enough to make 2.8 billion milk bottles.

The benefits of WRAP's work in terms of the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions (CO_2) are also significant. Since WRAP started work in 2001 it is estimated that the combined impact of its activities has saved over 1 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent greenhouse gases—the same as taking 316,000 cars off the road. Over the lifetime of the projects that WRAP has directly supported, over 12 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent greenhouse gases will be saved.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which councils have received funding from the Waste and Resources Action Programme's local communications fund; and how much each received. [222850]

Hilary Benn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 862W. The position is unchanged as the Waste and Resources Action Programme has not signed any new contracts since January 2008.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what external *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations work the Waste and Resources Action Programme has commissioned in the last 24 months; from which companies or consultants; and at what cost to the public purse. [222862]

Hilary Benn: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) commissions external public relations agencies to communicate its research, advice and consumer campaigns to a wide range of target audiences, both business and consumer. The expenditure is predominantly in support of WRAP's national consumer behaviour-change campaigns: Recycle Now, Love Food Hate Waste and the programme to support home composting.

WRAP ensures that public relations activity is a cost-effective use of taxpayers' funds. For example, public relations spend of £36,000 to launch The Food We Waste report in May this year delivered national and regional media coverage with an advertising value equivalent of £1.995 million, equal to the entire annual communications budget for WRAP's Food Waste campaign.

Public relations material produced for the consumer campaigns provides local authorities with valuable free support to help them meet recycling and waste minimisation targets. These campaigns have been highly successful over this period: the number of 'committed recycler' households in England has increased by 3.9 million, unnecessary food waste has been reduced by more than 100,000 tonnes and almost two million compost bins have been sold through the home composting programme.

It is only possible to express expenditure by financial year, and the following figures therefore relate to the two financial years between April 2007 and March 2009.

During 2007-08, expenditure on external public relations agencies was £3.1 million, representing 4.3 per cent. of WRAP's budget for that year. In the current financial year (2008-09), the planned expenditure in this area is £2.9 million, representing 5 per cent. of the overall budget for the year. It should be noted that WRAP's 2008-09 budget is significantly lower than the budget for 2007-08, which is why the expenditure on PR agencies in 2008-09, although lower than the figure for 2007-08, represents a higher proportion of this year's budget.

The firms employed to support WRAP over this period who are currently on the roster are 3 Monkeys, Ptarmigan, Tri-Media Harrison Cowley, Camargue, Bray Leino PR, and Fishburn Hedges. Firms no longer on the roster are Pelican PR, Lawton PR, Grayling, Proteus PR, Consolidated PR, and Kinross and Render.

During this period WRAP commissioned one piece of external public affairs support. Now completed, this six-month project was to engage public policy makers and opinion formers from outside WRAP's established stakeholder groups to discuss a range of developing resource efficiency issues on which WRAP is working. Chelgate Ltd was engaged at a cost of £25,000.

Waste Disposal: EU Law

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of whether the implementation of the EU Waste Framework Directive will affect the number of councils which operate a fortnightly rubbish collection service; [222863]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the implementation of the European Waste Framework Directive on the future of weekly household collections of residual rubbish. [222871]

Hilary Benn: The forthcoming changes to the EU Waste Framework Directive, which are expected to be adopted in October 2008 and come into force towards the end of 2010, do not affect the frequency with which councils should collect household waste. That will remain, as now, a matter for councils to decide for themselves.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs representatives of which organisations attended the launch by his Department of the guidance on waste incentive schemes in London on 19 June 2008. [222867]

Hilary Benn: The following organisations attended the launch on 19 June 2008:

Friends of the Earth
County Surveyors Society
National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO)
Nappy Alliance
Community Recycling Network UK
The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)
Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)
Eunomia
Environment Agency
Taxpayers Alliance
GMB
Unison
Unite
Absorbent Hygiene Products Manufacturers Association (AHPMA)
Local Government Association.

Waste Disposal: Offenders

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions there have been for waste disposal offences in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* type of offence and *(b)* police force area. [223667]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* Information on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, broken down by police force area and offence in England and Wales from 1997 to 2006, is set out in the following tables. Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, in England and Wales, broken down by police force area[1] and offence, 1997 to 2006[2, 3]

Contravening conditions of a waste management licence, section 33(6)

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—
Bedfordshire	—	5	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	4
Cambridgeshire	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Cheshire	—	2	2	4	4	5	6	2	9	3
Cleveland	6	5	3	5	1	1	2	3	7	3
Cumbria	4	2	1	4	—	2	3	1	1	1
Derbyshire	—	4	3	4	12	4	5	7	12	3
Devon and Cornwall	9	3	9	10	14	17	13	23	19	15
Dorset	4	—	—	2	1	4	—	—	6	9
Durham	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	9	8	2	7	4	1	3	8	3	2
Gloucestershire	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Greater Manchester	—	2	9	10	8	9	18	8	38	49
Hampshire	9	8	3	2	6	9	6	4	1	2
Hertfordshire	4	3	11	6	—	2	3	2	—	—
Humberside	—	1	5	3	5	20	12	9	—	3
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	13	7
Lancashire	3	10	7	5	5	39	18	12	13	12
Leicestershire	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	4	3	5
Lincolnshire	1	3	3	7	5	9	6	11	11	10
Merseyside	1	—	2	1	4	—	—	—	1	6
Metropolitan Police	3	8	12	3	8	10	11	33	31	48
Norfolk	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	1	5	8
North Yorkshire	—	6	5	—	5	—	2	—	2	—
Northamptonshire	—	3	7	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	7	8	12	19	8	7	18	23	32	29
Nottinghamshire	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	3	5
South Yorkshire	12	13	4	7	4	10	10	8	14	8
Staffordshire	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	2	—
Suffolk	3	—	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	2
Surrey	6	15	—	7	4	11	2	1	—	3
Sussex	—	1	1	4	6	1	4	2	1	6
Thames Valley	1	—	5	7	10	14	18	20	18	42

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, in England and Wales, broken down by police force area[1] and offence, 1997 to 2006[2, 3]

Contravening conditions of a waste management licence, section 33(6)

Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Warwickshire	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1
West Mercia	1	..	4	2	3	5	1	2	2	2
West Midlands	6	23	38	10	20	24	33	26	36	47
West Yorkshire	2	6	6	2	3	2	2	4	6	5
Dyfed-Powys	..	4	1	..	..	2	..	3	..	1
Gwent	1	..	..	1	6	..	..	2	1	..
North Wales	..	..	..	2	6	2	2	7	1	1
South Wales	2	2	2	2	17	18	8	18	18	15
England and Wales	98	157	164	144	175	238	210	252	316	360

Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition, treating, keeping or disposing of controlled (but not special) waste in or on land without a licence, section 33(8)

Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Bedfordshire	..	1	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	..
Cambridgeshire	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cheshire	..	..	2	..	2	1	6	1	8	6
Cleveland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cumbria	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Derbyshire	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	4	..
Devon and Cornwall	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Dorset	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Durham	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Essex	1	3	2	..	1	1	..	2	1	3
Greater Manchester	1	1	4	2	1	1	3	2	..	2
Hampshire	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
Hertfordshire	..	..	..	1	4	2	..	..	1	..
Humberside	..	2	..	..	..	..	5	..	1	..
Kent	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	14	34	14
Lancashire	3	15	19	23	6	8	6	5	10	21
Leicestershire	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lincolnshire	1	4	1	3	4	2	2	1	5	2
Merseyside	1	1	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..
Metropolitan Police	1	3	6	2	2	5	1	12	5	10
Norfolk	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
North Yorkshire	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4	..
Northamptonshire	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Northumbria	1	..	2	5	1	..	..	..	..	1
Nottinghamshire	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
South Yorkshire	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	2	..
Staffordshire	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Suffolk	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	6	3	..
Surrey	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	1
Sussex	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	2
Thames Valley	..	..	1	3	..	3	..	..	..	1
Warwickshire	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	7
West Mercia	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
West Midlands	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	4
West Yorkshire	2	3	4	2	..	..	..	1	1	2
Dyfed-Powys	..	1	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..
Gwent	..	..	..	1	..	..	4	..	1	..
North Wales	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
South Wales	..	..	1	..	1	..	4	1	5	5
England and Wales	19	49	49	48	32	31	43	57	92	84

Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition of controlled special waste in or on land without a licence, section 33(9)

Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	..	..	2	..	6	8	2	1	3	4
Bedfordshire	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	3	4	5

Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition of controlled special waste in or on land without a licence, section 33(9)

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Cambridgeshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Cheshire	1	—	—	3	—	3	4	2	7	1
Cleveland	2	5	—	2	1	4	4	3	2	8
Cumbria	—	—	1	1	7	2	5	8	3	5
Derbyshire	1	4	6	4	5	5	3	7	7	8
Devon and Cornwall	1	—	1	—	—	1	3	2	2	1
Dorset	2	—	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Essex	1	3	5	10	10	6	6	2	8	17
Gloucestershire	—	1	—	1	4	2	2	—	2	3
Greater Manchester	2	3	—	7	12	15	11	15	46	42
Hampshire	13	7	8	5	10	5	2	3	3	—
Hertfordshire	3	2	—	—	10	6	14	15	9	9
Humberside	2	2	2	1	2	—	4	5	12	9
Kent	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	4	9	16
Lancashire	1	6	—	4	1	13	5	4	6	10
Leicestershire	1	11	16	7	7	5	—	2	2	4
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	7	2
Merseyside	3	—	2	6	11	4	2	1	12	4
Metropolitan Police	8	2	9	16	34	71	54	122	117	121
Norfolk	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	4
North Yorkshire	—	4	3	2	2	5	4	2	9	7
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	—	—	—
Northumbria	3	—	—	7	—	—	—	1	2	—
Nottinghamshire	4	1	1	12	8	3	9	13	15	20
South Yorkshire	5	6	—	2	2	2	4	5	10	15
Staffordshire	1	2	4	—	2	—	—	1	1	2
Suffolk	—	—	1	3	1	3	—	—	2	—
Surrey	2	2	—	2	—	6	8	4	12	7
Sussex	3	2	9	5	11	10	1	3	2	4
Thames Valley	2	2	1	4	1	4	6	6	12	9
Warwickshire	—	—	2	—	—	10	3	2	1	—
West Mercia	1	—	7	5	15	3	12	9	12	10
West Midlands	2	11	6	6	8	6	8	16	24	10
West Yorkshire	14	5	5	7	12	12	10	40	44	31
Wiltshire	—	1	3	6	7	13	3	8	5	3
Dyfed-Powys	1	8	3	13	3	13	7	11	10	10
Gwent	3	2	6	3	3	2	5	8	8	19
North Wales	—	—	1	5	17	16	18	18	7	6
South Wales	1	7	12	28	44	44	49	41	31	48
England and Wales	84	99	118	178	261	315	281	389	470	477

[1] If a police force is not listed under one of the offences, this indicates that no prosecutions for that force have been reported.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
I. & A, OCJR—Ministry of Justice.

Waste Disposal: Offices

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance or advice the Waste and Resources Action Programme has produced on recycling and reducing residual waste in office environments. [222859]

Hilary Benn: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has produced two relevant sets of guidance, both of which are freely available on its website.

WRAP's Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) Recycling Programme was set up in 2004 to investigate a range of factors to improve and increase the level of recycling by SMEs. The programme was delivered through a range of feasibility and demonstration trials which developed appropriate recycling services, charging mechanisms, sales and marketing approaches and advice on staff involvement in recycling. The overall aim was to make recycling at work easy, convenient and cost effective. The trials were successful, and have resulted in a number of new and expanded recycling services across

England and Scotland. The results have been used to develop Good Practice Guidance.

WRAP's Paper Advocacy Team was set up in 2005 to promote the benefits of using recycled paper to businesses. As well as providing direct advice to individual businesses, the team developed guidance documents, information sheets and case studies to provide more generic advice.

WRAP's website also includes a Recycle at Work section, which includes a searchable database of recycling service providers for small businesses, a step-by-step guide to how to start recycling at work, including in offices, and some case studies.

Waste Disposal: Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of waste sent for recycling which is landfill in the most recent period for which figures are available. [222443]

Hilary Benn: Based on England local authority responses to WasteDataFlow covering the period October to December 2007, the tonnage of municipal waste collected for recycling, but rejected at the point of collection, during sorting or at the gate of the reprocessor and sent to landfill was 21,000 tonnes. This represents 1 per cent. of municipal waste collected for recycling in that period.

Waste Management

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he issues on the minimum amount of waste produced within a local authority area which the local authority is required to deal with. [222719]

Hilary Benn: Section 75 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) sets out, among other things, the sources of household waste. Subsection 75(8) empowers the Secretary of State to make regulations further refining this list. These regulations were made in 1992 and are known as the Controlled Waste Regulations (CWR).

Section 45(1) of the EPA places a duty on all waste collection authorities to make arrangements for the collection of all household waste arising in the area they are responsible for.

In the case of household waste from premises covered by schedule 2 of the CWR, this duty begins when the authority is asked to collect the waste by the person holding it. Sources of household waste covered by schedule 2 of the CWR includes, but is not limited to, waste from institutions such as schools, hospitals and prisons.

No guidance specific to the quantities of household waste arising in an area that an authority must deal with has been issued by DEFRA or any of its predecessors, as authorities have no choice over how much household waste they must collect. The Department did issue general guidance on both the EPA and the CWR when those statutory instruments came into force in the early 1990s.

Waste Management: Consultants

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations were consulted in the course of his Department's research project, "Balances and Energy Impacts of the Management of UK Wastes", published in December 2006; and what criteria were used to select these organisations for consultation. [222439]

Hilary Benn: An inception workshop was convened early in the project working programme, involving senior representatives from a range of organisations with expertise and knowledge in strategic waste management planning and life cycle assessment. Invitations were sent out to 42 organisations and 25 delegates met on 14 December 2005 in Birmingham. The following organisations attended the workshop: Biffa, Cory Environmental, Yorwaste, Shanks (all nominated through the Environmental Services Association), Associated British Foods, Asda, NHS, MOD, British Glass, Kraft, BAA, WRAP, DEFRA, EA, SEPA, Westminster Council, SEEDA, ERM, Golder Associates, Future Foundation, Brook Lyndhurst.

Waste Management: Domestic Wastes

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 467W, on waste management: domestic wastes, if he will publish an updated table of the local authorities which operate residual household waste collections with a frequency of less than once a week, including those operating or planning to operate pilot schemes with that frequency. [222771]

Hilary Benn: The following table represents our best understanding of local authorities operating residual household waste collections with a frequency of less than once a week, including pilot schemes. However, due to the often rapid changes in this area, it is unlikely to be completely up to date.

Local authorities operating alternate weekly collections (fortnightly refuse collections)

IFP number	*Local authority*	*Action*
19	Alnwick District Council	—
104	Amber Valley	—
139	Ashfield District Council	—
283	Aylesbury Vale District Council	Very small pilot scheme
233	Babergh District Council	—
90	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	—
138	Bassetlaw District Council	—
18	Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council	—
65	Blackpool Borough Council	—
17	Blyth Valley Borough Council	—
122	Boston Borough Council	—

Local authorities operating alternate weekly collections (fortnightly refuse collections)

ippp number	Local authority	Action
277	Bracknell Forest Borough Council	—
205	Braintree District Council	—
225	Breckland District Council	—
156	Bridgnorth District Council	—
350	Bristol City Council	—
224	Broadland District Council	—
149	Bromsgrove District Council	—
137	Broxtowe Borough Council	—
64	Burnley Borough Council	—
191	Cambridge City Council	—
166	Cannock Chase District Council	—
319	Canterbury City Council	—
38	Carlisle City Council	—
16	Castle Morpeth Borough Council	—
113	Charnwood Borough Council	—
326	Cherwell District Council	—
102	Chesterfield Borough Council	—
344	Chichester District Council	—
282	Chiltern District Council	Phases 1 and 2 introduced—not district-wide
63	Chorley Borough Council	—
37	Copeland Borough Council	—
130	Corby Borough Council	—
31	Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council	—
216	Dacorum Borough Council	—
129	Daventry District Council	—
96	Derby City Council	—
11	Derwentside District Council	—
89	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	—
303	East Hampshire District Council	—
121	East Lindsey District Council	—
302	Eastleigh Borough Council	—
30	Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	—
200	Epping Borough Council	AWC during winter only

Local authorities operating alternate weekly collections (fortnightly refuse collections)

ippp number	Local authority	Action
100	Erewash Borough Council	—
366	Exeter City Council	50 per cent. coverage
301	Fareham Borough Council	—
189	Fenland District Council	—
232	Forest Heath District Council	—
62	Fylde Borough Council	—
136	Gedling Borough Council	AWC during winter only
300	Gosport Borough Council	—
223	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	—
—	Guildford Borough Council	1800 hh trial (proposing to roll out borough wide from October 2009)
84	Hambleton District Council	—
112	Harborough District Council	—
299	Hart District Council	—
4	Hartlepool Borough Council	—
289	Hastings Borough Council	69 per cent. coverage
298	Havant Borough Council	—
214	Hertsmere Borough Council	—
111	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	—
99	High Peak Borough Council	—
188	Huntingdonshire District Council	—
61	Hyndburn Borough Council	—
231	Ipswich Borough Council	—
397	Kennet District Council	—
127	Kettering Borough Council	—
92	Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	Introduced from August 2007 over three years
60	Lancaster City Council	—
164	Lichfield District Council	—
120	Lincoln City Council	Propose to switch to AWC during winter only from 2008
—	London Borough of Bexley	Introduced spring 2008
263	London Borough of Harrow	—
28	Macclesfield Borough Council	—
135	Mansfield District Council	—
110	Melton Borough Council	—

Local authorities operating alternate weekly collections (fortnightly refuse collections)

jpp number	Local authority	Action
390	Mendip District Council	—
183	Mid Bedfordshire District Council	—
365	Mid Devon District Council	—
230	Mid Suffolk District Council	—
341	Mid Sussex District Council	—
335	Mole Valley District Council	—
134	Newark and Sherwood District Council	—
364	North Devon District Council	—
98	North East Derbyshire District Council	—
213	North Hertfordshire District Council	—
119	North Kesteven District Council	—
77	North Lincolnshire Council	—
221	North Norfolk District Council	—
155	North Shropshire District Council	—
109	North West Leicestershire District Council	—
126	Northampton Borough Council	—
133	Nottingham City Council	—
48	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	Being rolled out in phases
154	Oswestry Borough Council	—
325	Oxford City Council	—
59	Pendle Borough Council	—
187	Peterborough City Council	—
58	Preston Borough Council	—
373	Purbeck District Council	—
275	Reading Borough Council	—
2	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	—
145	Redditch Borough Council	—
82	Richmondshire District Council	—
47	Rochdale MBC	—
197	Rochford District Council	Introduced from April 2008
56	Rossendale Borough Council	—
287	Rother District Council	—

Local authorities operating alternate weekly collections (fortnightly refuse collections)

jpp number	Local authority	Action
88	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	—
—	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	Trial
132	Rushcliffe Borough Council	—
106	Rutland County Council	Started April 2008
81	Ryedale District Council	—
80	Scarborough Borough Council	—
70	Sefton MBC	First phase introduced being rolled out during 2008
311	Shepway District Council	—
153	Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council	—
182	South Bedfordshire District Council	—
281	South Buckinghamshire District Council	4,400 household trial
186	South Cambridgeshire District Council	—
97	South Derbyshire District Council	—
392	South Gloucestershire Council	—
362	South Hams District Council	—
117	South Kesteven District Council	—
35	South Lakeland District Council	—
219	South Norfolk District Council	—
125	South Northamptonshire Council	—
55	South Ribble Borough Council	—
152	South Shropshire District Council	—
388	South Somerset District Council	—
162	South Staffordshire District Council	—
332	Spelthorne Borough Council	—
229	St. Edmundsbury Borough Council	—
	Stafford Borough Council	Being introduced from February 2008
160	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	—
228	Suffolk Coastal	—
310	Swale Borough Council	—
393	Swindon Borough Council	—

Local authorities operating alternate weekly collections (fortnightly refuse collections)

jpp number	*Local authority*	*Action*
159	Tamworth Borough Council	—
387	Taunton Deane Borough Council	—
361	Teignbridge District Council	—
151	Telford and Wrekin Borough Council	—
295	Test Valley Borough Council	—
308	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	—
360	Torbay Council	—
307	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	—
15	Tynedale District Council	—
195	Uttlesford District Council	—
27	Vale Royal Borough Council	—
14	Wansbeck District Council	—
168	Warwick District Council	Introduced from April 2008
227	Waveney District Council	—
329	Waverley Borough Council	—
286	Wealden District Council	—
124	Wellingborough Borough Council	—
54	West Lancashire District Council	—
394	West Wiltshire District Council	—
371	Weymouth and Portland Borough Council	—
294	Winchester City Council	—
68	Wirral MBC	—
328	Woking Borough Council	—
143	Worcester City Council	—
280	Wycombe District Council	—
53	Wyre Borough Council	—
141	Wyre Forest District Council	—
78	York City Council	—

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 467W, on waste management: domestic wastes, what the JPP number in the table represents. [222772]

Hilary Benn: The numbering system was devised to enable easy matching of datasets. As local authority names are recorded in different ways, e.g. London borough of Camden and Camden, London borough, it was proving difficult to match datasets based on local authority names alone, a process which was facilitated considerably by the numbering system. The letters "JPP" are the initials of the person who devised the system.

Water Charges: Religious Buildings

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will amend guidance to Ofwat on charges for water services for churches and other places of worship so as to reinstate the exemption from such charges that pertained prior to the abolition of rateable value; and if he will make a statement. [213601]

Hilary Benn: Places of public religious worship were traditionally zero rated, and therefore by default were not charged for surface water drainage under the rateable value system of charging.

In 2000 the then Secretary of State issued guidance on matters to be taken into account by Ofwat in agreeing companies' charging schemes, including charging non-household users that are not businesses, including places of worship, community facilities, charities and voluntary bodies. The guidance stated that those making similar demands on a service should be charged on the same basis. It also made clear that where premises impose customer-related costs in line with or lower than those of typical households, they should be able to benefit from tariffs which reflect their small demand on the water system. It also stated that the phasing in of any large, sudden changes in charges should be considered.

Ministers are currently reviewing the impact of these changes.

Weedkillers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W, on manure, what steps his Department has taken to inform suppliers, farmers, allotment holders and gardeners of the risks associated with the use of aminopyralid. [222377]

Hilary Benn: The Pesticides Safety Directorate has issued information to a wide range of interested parties, including those holding pesticide approvals and those representing growers, suppliers and consumer and environmental interests. The directorate has also liaised closely on this matter with the National Society for Allotment and Leisure Gardeners and the Royal Horticultural Society. Information about aminopyralid is available on the directorate's website.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W, on manure, what assessment he has made of the risk of further contamination of crops during the next growing season. [222378]

Hilary Benn: The Pesticides Safety Directorate suspended authorisations for the sale, supply and use of aminopyralid products from 23 July 2008, while it carries out further

investigations into this problem. The suspension will not be lifted unless I am confident that the risks from contaminated manure can be effectively managed.

As regards unused manure, advice has been issued to ensure that it rots down fully and is fit for use in the next few years; or it can be disposed of as waste. Advice has also been issued on handling affected plots to speed up the decomposition of the grass in the manure. For example rotavating or digging over affected plots a number of times and ensuring the manure is turned readily. Providing this advice is followed, the risk to next year's crops should be low.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W, on manure, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the precautions taken by *(a)* the suppliers and *(b)* the end-users of aminopyralid to ensure that it did not contaminate manure. [222379]

Hilary Benn: It is recognised that manure may become contaminated by aminopyralid following the approved use of products which contain this substance. The labels of such products therefore include conditions regarding the use of manure, to avoid damage to other crops. That other crops appear to have been damaged by manure contaminated with aminopyralid indicates that these conditions may not have been observed in all cases. The Pesticides Safety Directorate suspended authorisations for the sale, supply and use of aminopyralid products from 23 July 2008, while it carries out further investigations into this problem.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W, on manure, which herbicides have *(a)* been granted provisional authorisation, *(b)* been refused provisional authorisation, *(c)* been granted full authorisation, *(d)* had provisional authorisation rescinded and *(e)* had full authorisation rescinded. [222380]

Hilary Benn: The following products containing aminopyralid have been given provisional authorisation:

Approval Holder	*Product Name*	*MAPP Number*
Dow Agro Sciences Limited	Banish	13766
	Forefront	12765
	Halcyon	12749
	Pharaoh	13631
	Pro-Banish	13767
	Runway	14017
	Synero	14059
AgChemAccess Ltd	Upfront	13782

In each case, the authorisation was amended with effect from 23 July 2008 to suspend approval for sale, supply and use. Approval for storage remains extant.

No products have been refused provisional authorisation, or been granted full authorisation, or had provisional or full authorisation rescinded.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W, on manure, in what circumstances his Department would rescind a provisional authorisation for a herbicide. [222381]

Hilary Benn: Provisional authorisation would be rescinded if the requirements for obtaining that authorisation were not, or were no longer satisfied; or if it was granted on the basis of false or misleading information; or at the request of the authorisation holder.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W, on manure, what further stages of approval aminopyralid will be subject to before it may be fully approved. [222383]

Hilary Benn: Aminopyralid must be approved for use in the European Community and included in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC, following which products which contain it must be re-registered in accordance with the conditions of that approval. If aminopyralid is not approved for use within the Community, all extant provisional authorisations will be withdrawn.

Wildlife: Conservation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to enforce legislation protecting wildlife. [221829]

Hilary Benn: The Government remain committed to tackling wildlife crime. Earlier this year they committed funding for the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) to secure its future for the next three years. This will enable the unit to further professionalise the enforcement of wildlife legislation, through: gathering information and evidence to compile an annual assessment of wildlife crime in the UK; gathering and analysing intelligence in support of the UK's wildlife crime priorities; and providing direct assistance to individual police and customs officers through its investigative support officers.

All incidents of wildlife crime in England and Wales are required to be recorded by the police service under the National Standard for Incident Recording, which should enable enforcers to have a better understanding of the level of wildlife crime taking place.

The Government also strengthened police powers to investigate offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Destructive Imported Animals Act 1932, the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, the Deer Act 1991 and the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, through the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

In April this year, the Government updated their response to the Environmental Audit Committee's 2004 report of its inquiry into wildlife crime. The update gives full information about the Government's activities in this area and is available on request from the House of Commons Library.

Wildlife: National Parks

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to maintain wildlife stocks in the national parks. [221827]

Hilary Benn: National parks play an important role in wildlife conservation and have already made a significant contribution for priority species and habitats under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. National park authorities have been collaborating with Natural England for some years to tackle issues such as overgrazing and burning on upland sites of special scientific interest. They will continue to work together to ensure the National parks' contribution to biodiversity conservation is delivered in an exemplary way.

Wood: Waste Disposal

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of the recommendations for incinerating waste wood put forward in his Department's research and development project on carbon balances and energy impacts of the management of UK wastes. [222495]

Hilary Benn: The findings of the study helped to inform the conclusion, set out in our waste strategy in May 2007, that wood has relatively low embodied energy (energy consumed in extraction) but high calorific value. While for some kinds of wood waste re-use or recycling are better options, its use as a fuel generally conveys a greater greenhouse gas benefit than recovering the material as a resource (and avoiding primary production).

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to consult recyclers of waste wood on the recommendations for incinerating waste wood put forward in his Department's project on carbon balances and energy impacts of the management of UK wastes. [222852]

Hilary Benn: DEFRA has a project to take forward the policy on waste wood set out in the Waste Strategy 2007. As an initial step, DEFRA published an information report 'Waste Wood as a Biomass Fuel' in April 2008, prepared in consultation with waste wood recyclers and other stakeholders.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Entry Clearances

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to extend the scheme of entry clearance operating for locally employed staff in Iraq to similar staff in Afghanistan. [225526]

Bill Rammell: The Iraq scheme was introduced in the context of a particular set of difficult circumstances including significant violence and intimidation of our Iraqi locally-engaged staff. There are no current requirements, and therefore no plans to extend the scheme to staff in Afghanistan at present, although this is kept under review. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is doing everything it can to discharge its duty of care to all staff serving in Afghanistan, within the constraints of the environment in which it operates.

Bell Pottinger

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions representatives of Bell Pottinger or Chime Communications have requested advice from his Department in relation to whether they should provide public affairs or public relations services to foreign Governments. [202352]

David Miliband: Many UK companies make contact with Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff in the UK and in our embassies overseas for advice on their operations overseas. We do not keep central records of all these contacts.

Georgia: Overseas Residence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to ensure the safety of Britons in Georgia. [225399]

Caroline Flint: As for all countries, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office offers guidance for British nationals in Georgia and those thinking of travelling to Georgia through our travel advice. Our embassy in Tbilisi, like all of our overseas missions, has emergency plans to ensure that British nationals are offered an appropriate level of assistance. In most cases this assistance will be offered through our travel advice and responding to inquiries. If necessary, we would consider reinforcing our embassy to assist the embassy in offering the necessary assistance to British nationals.

HEALTH

Lung Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of proposals received for a feasibility study and trial development for a United Kingdom-based screening programme for lung cancer; and what further steps he plans to take. [224579]

Dawn Primarolo: Following a call for proposals made earlier this year, the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment Programme has now commissioned a feasibility study and trial protocol development for a United Kingdom based screening programme for lung cancer utilising low dose computerised tomography. The six-month study will start once the necessary contracts have been signed.

Hepatitis

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people newly-diagnosed with the hepatitis C virus in each of the last 10 years. [225271]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Laboratory reports of hepatitis C received by the Health Protection Agency—England: 1997 to 2007

	Number of laboratory reports[1]
1997	2,484
1998	3,812
1999	4,614
2000	4,489
2001	4,153
2002	4,761
2003	5,529
2004	6,206
2005	6,234
2006	6,721
2007[2]	7,540

[1] Corrected annual totals at August 2008. All annual totals have been revised to take into account an updated routine to remove reports, which relate to the same patient. Laboratory reports of hepatitis C are newly diagnosed cases of both current and past infections. This is because present serological tests are not able to differentiate between current acute and chronic hepatitis C infections, or between current and past hepatitis C infections.
[2] Provisional total.
Source:
Health Protection Agency (HPA)

Hepatitis: Finance

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department plans to spend in *(a)* the 2008-09 and *(b)* the 2009-10 financial year on improving GPs' awareness of the risks of contracting the hepatitis C virus and its treatment. [225270]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is currently developing its ongoing hepatitis C awareness campaign for healthcare professionals and the public for 2008-09 and beyond.

Health professionals in primary care, including general practitioners, will remain an important audience for the campaign so that they are equipped to provide patients with information and advice about hepatitis C and to offer testing where appropriate.

The Department will spend about £2.5 million (excluding VAT) on the entire campaign for 2008-09. Budgets for 2009-10 and beyond are yet to be confirmed.

Hyperactivity

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts have allocated resources to tackle attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in adults. [224608]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not possible to state how many primary care trusts have allocated resources to address the provision of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder for adults. This is because funding for primary care trusts to deliver health care, including mental health care, to their populations is allocated on the basis of a formula that takes account of a range of factors associated with population health need.

This formula does not take account of specific diagnostic categories such as attention deficit disorder and therefore we do not have specific information on the number of trusts that have allocated resources solely to address this disorder. Diagnosis and treatment are matters for local determination and primary care trusts are expected to adhere to recent National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the subject.

Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what process was followed in the appointment of the Chairman of the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV; where the post was advertised; how many persons applied for the post; how many were short-listed for interview; whether consideration was given to a candidate's *(a)* political views and *(b)* views on abortion; how each was appraised; what criteria were adopted for each candidate; how many candidates were rejected; and if he will make a statement. [225713]

Dawn Primarolo: In appointing the chair and members of the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV, the Department followed the guidance on appointments to public bodies, issued by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. This included recruiting an Independent Assessor, who was involved in all stages of the recruitment exercise. I agreed all appointments to the group.

The post was advertised in *The Times*, *The Guardian*, medical press and minority ethnic press. Three individuals applied for the post of chair and all were interviewed. All candidates for the chair were appraised using the same three criteria, which were:

experience of successfully chairing a large committee;

ability to steer a programme of work and have the ability to think strategically across a range of issues; and

possess a thorough knowledge and understanding of sexual health and HIV, or related social policy.

We are unable to give information on political views or views on abortion, as such information would identify candidates.

Infectious Diseases: Vaccinations

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the vaccine industry on public health priorities in addressing infectious diseases. [225698]

Dawn Primarolo: My right hon. Friend has had no meetings with the vaccine industry since his appointment in June 2007. The Department meets with the vaccine industry on an ad hoc basis and provides submissions to my office when needed.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people medically recommended for treatment under sections 2 or 3 of the Mental Health Act 2007 could not be admitted to hospital due to shortage of beds during the last year for which figures are available, broken down by mental health trust area. [222500]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 345-6W, on the National User Forum

on Mental Health, what discussions have taken place with service users on the replacement for the national service framework for mental health from 2009. [224891]

Phil Hope: Work on replacing the national service framework is being developed through the 'New Horizons' programme which began with a national event in November 2007. User and carer involvement is a key element.

An encouraging number of service user and carer representatives attended the four regional forums that have taken place and representatives have been invited to and are expected to attend the forum taking place in the east midlands later in October 2008.

'New Horizons' will also take full account of the visions set out recently by the 10 strategic health authorities as part of the Next Stage Review, and by various key stakeholders, such as the coalition that produced 'A New Vision for Mental Health'. All of these have involved, and continue to involve, users and carers.

NHS: Dental Services

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were on waiting lists to register for an NHS dentist in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each year since 2000. [225519]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to determine how best to manage patients seeking national health service dental services.

However, increasing the number of patients seen within the NHS dental service is now a priority in the operating framework for the NHS in England 2008-09. We have supported this with an 11 per cent. uplift in overall dental allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008. Copies of the operating framework have already been placed in the Library.

NHS: Eyesight

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received corrective laser eye surgery on the NHS in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each year since 2000. [225521]

Dawn Primarolo: Corrective laser eye surgery is not carried out routinely on the national health service other than for exceptional clinical reasons and these will be very rare. The Department does not collect data broken down by this specific group.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the monies allocated to the reduction in the numbers of people with learning disabilities living in NHS campus-style accommodation will be distributed. [225423]

Phil Hope: To support the programme to close national health service campus-style services, £96 million in revenue grant and £175 million in capital grant was made available for three years; 2008-09, 2009-010 and 2010-11.

The revenue grant has been targeted on local authorities (LAs) where campuses are currently or have previously been located to ensure that the money is used to help more people into appropriate supported accommodation. LAs were invited to bid for funding for the grant.

The LAs that applied for the grant and were successful in their bid, will have their grant monies paid as a single payment on 1 June of the financial year to which the payment relates, or as soon after that as reasonable practicable. The total allocations for the revenue grant were £14 million in 2008-09, £31 million in 2009-10 and £51 million in 2010-11.

In addition, there is a three-stage bidding process in place for LAs and primary care trusts to bid for capital funding. Stages 1 and 2 of this programme have been completed and a total of £48 million over two years (2007-08 and 2008-09) has been allocated to help up to 700 people with a learning disability move to alternative accommodation in the community. An expert panel assessed the joint bids to decide on the allocations; this panel included a person with learning disabilities and a family carer.

Pregnant Women: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department plans to take to improve public awareness of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder; [224697]

(2) if he will *(a)* make foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) a core subject in training for new doctors and other medical professionals and *(b)* design and implement a catch-up training programme on FASD for medical professionals already in practice, with particular reference to (i) general practitioners, (ii) midwives, (iii) mental health workers and (iv) those working in paediatrics; [224698]

(3) if he will list the steps his Department plans to take to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking during pregnancy; [224699]

(4) if he will take steps to improve the awareness of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) amongst *(a)* LEA members, *(b)* local authority members and *(c)* others responsible for decisions on the allocation of public funds in order to ensure appropriate future provision of funds to deal with FASD. [224700]

Dawn Primarolo: In early 2007, the four United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers considered the need for consistent advice across the UK on pregnancy and drinking alcohol. Following this, the Department's advice on drinking before and during pregnancy was revised and published in May 2007.

In March 2008, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published advice for health professionals on the treatment and care of women during pregnancy. This includes advice on drinking alcohol.

The Department's advice is that pregnant women and women trying to conceive should avoid drinking alcohol and that, if they choose to drink, to minimise risk to the baby, they should not drink more than one to two units of alcohol once or twice a week and should not get drunk.

The NICE guidelines emphasise the importance of avoiding alcohol completely during the first three months of pregnancy, the key time for organ and nervous system development.

The Department is working with the alcohol industry to include information about drinking when pregnant on alcohol labels. This voluntary agreement with the alcohol industry, announced in May 2007, is to include unit content and daily guideline information on labels. The Department expects that advice to women to avoid alcohol if they are pregnant or trying to conceive should also be included on most alcohol labels by the end of 2008.

In May 2008, we launched a campaign to raise awareness of the public's knowledge of units of alcohol and how they relate to today's drinks and servings—this included communication to highlight the updated pregnancy advice around alcohol consumption.

On 22 July 2008, the Department launched the Government's alcohol consultation, asking for the views of the public and key stakeholders on what action the Government should take in response to the rising levels of alcohol health harm and crime and disorder. One of the questions that the consultation asks is whether the alcohol industry should have to include information on alcohol unit content and health on the labelling of alcohol products.

We are working with the International Centre for Drug Policy to influence the development of the undergraduate medical curriculum and embed substance misuse, including a specific module on alcohol identification and brief advice, within the curriculum. This includes working with the Deans of the 24 English Medical Schools, who are all independent and set their own curriculum. The aims for undergraduate medical students are that:

students should be able to recognise, assess and understand the management of substance misuse and associated health and social problems and contribute to the prevention of addiction;

students should be aware of the effects of substance misuse on their own behaviour and health and on their professional practice and conduct; and

students' education and training should challenge the stigma and discrimination that are often experienced by people with addiction problems.

In spring 2008, we announced funding to develop the implementation of the curriculum and the training of new doctors, including, as a core priority, ensuring that future doctors will be able to recognise, assess and understand the management of alcohol misuse and its associated health and social problems, and the funding of co-ordinators in medical schools, whose roles include working with curriculum developers to ensure that the guidance is implemented and to facilitate integration of the guidance into their curricula.

Guidance, issued in April 2007, has been developed to define the aims and core learning outcomes in substance misuse, which medical students should achieve during the undergraduate stage of their basic medical education.

The guidance goes on to say specifically that on graduation students should be able to advise women on the effects of substance use, including alcohol, and the impact on foetal and maternal health. Concerning specific diseases, students should be able to describe the effects on pregnancy and on the newborn of misuse or dependence on alcohol, tobacco or illicit drugs.

Currently, there are no plans to design a "catch-up training programme" on foetal alcohol spectrum disorder for those medical professionals already in practice.

Salt

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the food manufacturing industry on the salt content of packaged foods. [225517]

Dawn Primarolo: The "Healthy Weight Healthy Lives Strategy" published in January (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) sets out as one of its key aims, a plan to "finalise a Healthy Food Code of Good practice , in partnership with the food and drink industry, and other relevant stakeholders". This code challenges the whole industry to adopt practices to reduce levels of saturated fat, sugar and salt in processed foods among other measures.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with the food industry on salt reduction.

Skin Piercing

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were admitted to hospital as a result of medical problems resulting from body piercing in the last 12 months. [225723]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Health Protection Agency has investigated the prevalence of cosmetic body piercing in the general population in England aged 16 years and over and associated complications. This research indicates that most complications associated with body piercing appear to be minor and self-limiting such as local, minor wound infections and that serious complications requiring hospital admission are rare—affecting less than 1 per cent. of those aged 16 to 24 having a piercing, the group in which piercing is most common.

This research was published in the *British Medical Journal* (*BMJ*) on 13 June 2008 and is available on the *BMJ*'s website at:

www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7658/1426?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=body+piercing&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&resourcetype=HWCIT

Copies have also been placed in the Library.

Smoking: Counselling

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid to stop-smoking counsellors in the last 12 months. [224723]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The latest data on overall expenditure on stop smoking services by the national health service were published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre in 'Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England, April 2007 to March 2008'. A copy has been placed in the Library.

SunSmart

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the timetable is for rolling out the SunSmart campaign; when he plans to evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme; and by what means; [224571]

(2) what timetable is in place for gathering more information about the effects of sunbed use. [224885]

Dawn Primarolo: SunSmart is the United Kingdom's National Skin Cancer Prevention and Sun Protection Campaign, run by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the UK Health Departments. The campaign runs on an annual basis, between April and September, and activities are evaluated by Cancer Research UK on an ongoing basis including both quantitative and qualitative factors.

The Department is not currently collecting information on the effects of sunbed use. However, it is taking steps to gather information on the distribution and extent of sunbed use by young people, as mentioned in the Cancer Reform Strategy, copies of which have already been placed in the Library. A report is expected in 2009.

Tobacco

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will respond to the consultation on proposals for the next steps in *(a)* tobacco control and *(b)* the further regulation of tobacco products. [224572]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has received nearly 100,000 responses to the "Consultation on the future of tobacco control". A summary of consultation responses will be made available on the Department's website before the end of 2008.

The Government have committed to developing a new national tobacco control strategy to build on the achievements made since the publication of the "Smoking Kills" White Paper in 1998. The "Consultation on the future of tobacco control" is the first stage in developing this new strategy. A publication date for the new strategy will be announced in due course.

Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish the output data from the pilot studies conducted as part of the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services programme; [225527]

(2) what guidance he is issuing to local authorities on the implementation of the new Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services programme model. [225528]

Phil Hope: The retail model developed for community equipment met with overall approval from the sector. The outline business case was sufficiently robust to support developing the outline model to operational status. This is currently being undertaken through a shadow running process in the north west with local authority (LA) and health partners in Manchester, Oldham and Cheshire.

The shadow running process demonstrated improvements in the user experience and efficiency of the service. Cheshire and Oldham have decided to implement the model locally. This confirms that, in their areas, the new prescription processes have been demonstrated to be effective and are capable of being scaled up to support full implementation of the retail model.

The business case for a new model of delivery of wheelchair services is currently being considered by senior officials in the Department. At the present time we are unable to specify a timescale for any future decisions to be made and announced.

There are no current plans to issue guidance to LAs. LAs and health partnerships continue in their statutory duty to meet the needs of those individuals eligible for support. Retailers also continue to offer a range of services, including installation and personal advice, to those who self fund.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on antisocial behaviour, what the timetable is for implementing the provisions of the 2006 Act; and whether she plans to implement the Act before implementation of the provisions of the Community Empowerment Bill. [222780]

Mr. Coaker: We have always been clear that the implementation of these proposals must give proper consideration to the wider local accountability agenda. We are therefore keen to ensure that implementation of these provisions properly takes into account the findings of Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Independent Review of Policing, along with the proposals from Louise Casey's review "Connecting Communities with the fight against crime".

The Policing Green Paper "From the neighbourhood to the national: policing our communities together" set out proposals for improving local accountability, and specifically asks for views on how the Councillor Calls for Action might complement the broader agenda.

The formal consultation period for the Green Paper runs until Friday 10 October. Any implementation timetable for the Councillor Calls for Action will need to be developed in light of the responses received.

Assaults on Police

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults on *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there were in each of the last five years, broken down by police force area. [224291]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is collected on behalf of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

(a) Data for the numbers of assaults on police officers and operational police staff for 2003-04 and 2004-05 can be found in the HMIC Annual Report, available in the Library of the House and from:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0506/hc08/0842/0842.pdf

These data are not available by individual rank and therefore have been provided for police officers and operational staff as a combined figure.

Data for the numbers of assaults on police officers for 2005-06 to 2007-08 can be found in the supplementary tables of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 08/08 "Police Service Strength, England and Wales", available in the Library of the House and from:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0808supptab1.pdf

(b) Data for the numbers of assaults on police community support officers for 2003-04 and 2004-05 were not separately identifiable in the information published by HMIC and are not available.

Data for the numbers of assaults on police community support officers for 2005-06 to 2007-08 are given in the following table.

Assaults[1] on police community support officers 2005-06 to 2007-08[2, 3]

	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
Force	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Minor or no injury*	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Minor or no injury*	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Minor or no injury*
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire[5]	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	12
Cleveland[4]	—	—	—	0	0	3	0	0	3
Cumbria[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire[5]	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	9
Devon and Cornwall[5]	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	14
Dorset	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Durham	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	3
Essex	0	0	3	0	1	16	0	1	12
Gloucestershire	0	1	5	0	0	5	0	0	4
Greater Manchester	0	1	14	0	1	21	0	1	44
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	11
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	15
Kent	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
Lancashire	0	0	4	0	0	13	0	0	10
Leicestershire	0	0	5	0	0	6	0	0	13
Lincolnshire	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	5
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Merseyside	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	11
Metropolitan Police	0	2	72	0	10	70	0	23	155
Norfolk	0	0	1	0	0	12	0	1	11
Northamptonshire	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	0
Northumbria	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	1	10
North Yorkshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	0	0	8	0	0	3	0	0	2
South Yorkshire	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	5
Staffordshire	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2
Suffolk	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Surrey	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
Sussex	0	0	4	0	2	4	0	0	5
Thames Valley	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	6
Warwickshire[5]	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	1
West Mercia	0	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	4
West Midlands	0	0	8	0	0	22	0	0	32
West Yorkshire	0	0	39	0	1	42	0	0	45
Wiltshire	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	1	6
Dyfed-Powys[6]	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Gwent	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5
North Wales	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	4
South Wales[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Provisional data collated on behalf of HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under Sections 18 and 20 of the offences Against the Person Act 1861. Other assaults include those with minor or no injury. Recording practices may vary over time and between forces.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.
[3] Cheshire and Warwickshire were not able to provide data from the HR recording system, data are therefore taken from the crime system and are not comparable with that from other forces.
[4] Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, North Yorkshire and South Wales were not able to provide data for one or more years.
[5] Derbyshire in all years and Devon and Cornwall in 2005-06 only were not able to separately identify the degree of assault. All assaults figures for affected years are given in the minor or no injury category.
[6] Dyfed-Powys were not able to provide consistent figures for the reporting period, and data for each year are therefore not comparable.

Asylum

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date her Department was informed of the decision of the High Court regarding the asylum claim of Mr. A. U. of Aylesbury (ref: U 1030958/2); on what date the case was allocated to a case worker for resolution; what the reasons are for the time taken in issuing a visa to Mr. A. U.; and when she expects such a visa to be issued. [224518]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 2 October 2008.

Asylum: Employment

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to allow asylum seekers to work while their status is being determined; and if she will make a statement. [224552]

Mr. Woolas: We have no current plans to change the position whereby asylum seekers are only allowed to work if they have not had a decision on their asylum application within 12 months of the date of their application and the delay is not attributable to them.

Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the latest guidance from the Office of Surveillance Commissioners on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and the use of local authority CCTV systems for directed surveillance by a law enforcement agency. [222692]

Mr. Coaker: The Information Commissioner published in January 2008 revised guidance on the use of CCTV in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. No separate guidance has been published by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners, although in his recent annual report, for 2007-08, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner welcomed the dialogue between local authorities and the police on this matter.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many notifications *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies made to the Information Commissioner following the loss or mishandling of personal information or data in each of the last three years; and what was notified in each case. [222904]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has published details of the protected personal data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its Resource Accounts published on 8 August 2008. In the first half of 2008-09 (April to September) a notification was made to the Information Commissioner regarding the PA consulting data loss incident.

In 2008-09, the UK Border Agency contacted the Information Commissioner about a potential incident involving the loss of a data stick on UKBA premises. The data stick was subsequently found at an internal location so this was not in fact a notifiable incident.

The Identity and Passport Service has published details of the personal data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its Annual Report and Accounts published on 26 June 2008. In the first half of 2008-09 no notifications were made to the Information Commissioner.

The Criminal Records Bureau, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, did not report any notification of loss or mishandling of any personal data to the Information Commissioner's Office for the period 2007-08. In the first half of 2008-09 no notifications were made to the Information Commissioner.

Before November 2007 the Information Commissioner's Office did not specifically keep records of instances of information security losses or breaches.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in government.

Deportation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many Bassetlaw residents were deported from the UK in each of the last five years; [224611]

(2) how many UK residents have been deported to Australia in the last five years. [224827]

Mr. Woolas: The information regarding how many Bassetlaw residents have been deported from the UK in each of the last five years is not available at the geographical level requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures from the UK to Australia, which includes those subject to a deportation order, from 2004 to 2007. These figures exclude persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls) since they were not resident in the UK at the time.

Destination data have only been recorded since 2004, so information on persons removed to Australia during 2003 is not available.

Further National Statistics on removals from the UK are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Removals and voluntary departures[1,2] from the UK to Australia, 2004 to 2007[3]

	Number of removals
2004	15
2005	50
2006	30
2007[4]	70
Total[4]	170

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under the Assisted Voluntary Return Programme run by the International Organisation for Migration since January 2005, persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[2] Excludes persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls).
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the total shown because of independent rounding.
[4] Provisional figures.

Extradition

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by the working group initiated under the then Prime Minister's 12 point plan of August 2005 in order to deal with extradition requests to the UK; how many times the group met in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [224879]

Meg Hillier: Since August 2005, 13 people have been extradited by the UK for terrorism-related offences; five people have been discharged by UK courts; five cases are ongoing and one case was withdrawn by the requesting state.

The steering group established in 2005 to explore the issue of establishing a maximum time limit for extradition cases involving terrorism met on a monthly basis between September 2005 and November 2006. The original focus was to consult stakeholders on maximum time-limits. The group has continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis since November 2006 to discuss other extradition related issues and to maintain a watching brief on all ongoing terrorist-related extradition cases.

Immigration: Children

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many days children who were British citizens were in immigration detention in the last 12 months. [225202]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 7 October 2008]:* The information requested on the number of days children with British citizenship have been detained in immigration detention is not centrally collated and could be provided only by examining individual cases in disparate locations (local enforcement offices) at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of persons detained is published in the Quarterly Asylum Bulletin, on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Metropolitan Police: Finance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of the Metropolitan Police Service's CB13 unit and its successor organisation in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [224709]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally.

Costs associated with individual force units and decisions on the distribution of resources are an operational matter for the Commissioner and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the breakdown by nationality is of the 250 sentence-expired foreign nationals held in detention under immigration powers. [223148]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* In her letter of 18 February, the chief executive of the UK Border Agency referred the Home Affairs Committee to her appearance before them on 15 January, where she advised that the countries relevant in this respect were Jamaica, Nigeria, China and Vietnam.

The chief executive also advised the committee in her most recent letter of 23 July of the improvements being made to sustain and develop the agency's capability for returning foreign prisoners.

Offensive Weapons: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* 16 and under, *(b)* between 17 and 18, *(c)* between 18 and 21 and *(d)* 21 years were arrested for carrying (i) knives and (ii) firearms in the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire in each of the last five years, broken down by district or borough. [222994]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Passports: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many war veterans in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK received a free passport in each year since the scheme's inception. [224561]

Meg Hillier: The then Home Secretary announced the introduction of free passports on 19 May 2004 as a special concession for the second world war generation, to recognise all those who had contributed to the national effort during the war years, whether in the armed services or on the home front. Those who qualify are British nationals born on or before 2 September 1929 and therefore were old enough by the end of the war to have made a substantial contribution to the national effort.

The number of free passports issued under the scheme, by financial year, is as follows:

	Free passports issued
2004-05	121,444
2005-06	157,229
2006-07	127,820
2007-08	109,655
2008-09[1]	45,344

[1] To end September 2008

Information on numbers issued by constituency could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Passports: Pensioners

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many free passports were issued to pensioners in 2007; [224828]

(2) how many free passports have been issued to pensioners in Bassetlaw constituency in the last two years. [224833]

Meg Hillier: The introduction of free passports was announced on 19 May 2004 as a special concession for the second world war generation. Those who qualify are British nationals born on or before 2 September 1929 and therefore were old enough by the end of the war to have made a substantial contribution to the national effort. From January to December 2007, 118,723 free passports were issued. Information on numbers issued by constituency could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Personation: Internet

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to address online identity fraud. [225760]

Meg Hillier: The Government have a number of ongoing work programmes, many operating in partnership with public and private sector stakeholders, to seek to combat all forms of fraud, including where computer systems are a factor in enabling fraudulent activity.

Government have allocated £29 million over three years to implement the recommendations of the Fraud Review. This includes the creation of a National Fraud Strategic Authority, launched earlier this month; a new national lead force role for the city of London police; and a National Fraud Reporting Centre (NFRC), expected to go live in 2009, which will radically streamline the way that the public report fraud, including fraud committed over the internet, to the police. The NFRC will also equip law enforcement agencies with a powerful intelligence tool and help form the basis of better prevention advice and alerts to fraud threats for business and the public.

To help people and organisations protect themselves from crime which may involve an online element, the website www.getsafeonline.org was developed by the Government, police and industry. The website gives advice on how to stay safe online when shopping, banking or doing business over the internet, and how to protect computers and the personal information they contain. More general advice regarding identity fraud can be found on the website www.identitytheft.org.uk which was developed in partnership between Government, law enforcement and industry to provide advice to the public and business around combating identity theft and fraud.

The Government are providing £3.5 million over three years to create the Police Central e-crime Unit (PCeU). This will provide support to the police service in developing a structured response to online crime, and its initial focus will be on the area of fraud-related electronic crime, working with the NFRC to develop a response to reports on such matters. The PCeU will act as the central unit for the police on promotion of standards for training, procedure and response to e-crime. It will bring together forces, the National Police Improvement Agency and other groups to develop training and to coordinate activity to build up the skill levels within policing. Outside of this the Serious Organised Crime Agency will continue its ongoing work to tackle the international and serious organised crime groups operating on the internet, supporting the NFRC and PCeU where appropriate.

Government continue to review and revise legislation to ensure that it is adequate to deal with modern ways of committing offences. The Fraud Act 2006 revised and updated legislation on fraud, including introducing an offence of fraud by false representation. This makes it an offence to commit any fraud by false representation in any form; it makes no difference if the representation is made to a machine or to a person, and there does not have to be any actual loss to a victim, it is merely enough to expose another to a risk of loss.

Ministers continue to have regular contact with the banking industry about crime reduction, including issues around online frauds.

Police: Notting Hill Carnival

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost of policing the 2008 Notting Hill Carnival was; [224681]

(2) how much was paid to the police by Notting Hill Carnival Ltd to cover the cost of policing the 2008 event. [224682]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally.

This is an operational matter for the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Commissioner, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in Nottinghamshire in each of the last seven years. [224819]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the following table.

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1996 to 31 March 2008

Nottinghamshire police force	*Number*
2002	2,330
2003[3]	2,411
2004[3]	2,484
2005[3]	2,502

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1996 to 31 March 2008

Nottinghamshire police force	*Number*
2006[3]	2,477
2007[3]	2,410
2008[3]	2,334

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Police: Standards

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to include statistics on prosecution of *(a)* drink drivers and *(b)* disqualified drivers as part of the police national performance data. [225515]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The headline Statutory Performance Indicators within the policing performance framework are focused on a small number of key outcomes. The Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) framework for 2008-09 therefore contains an indicator on the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions. This indicator is also one of the priorities for local government, as set out in the National Indicator Set for Local Government in England. More detailed information on issues relating to the objective of reducing road traffic casualties is collected, but it is outside of the national indicators list.

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what freephone 24-hour telephone lines exist for victims of rape and sexual assault in England and Wales. [225140]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The Government fund a matrix of helplines for victims of domestic violence across the country including the free 24-hour national domestic violence helpline. We are currently exploring options for expanding these to cover a 24-hour sexual violence helpline. In addition, the Government provide funding to help develop new sexual assault referral centres and support existing ones. Sexual assault referral centres are available 24 hours a day to provide support to victims of sexual violence.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to increase the number of sexual assault referral centres in England and Wales over the next five years. [225141]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The Government have a commitment in the Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008 to 2011 to double the number of sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) from 19 to 38 by 2011. The Government are making good progress towards this target as there are already 22 SARCs in England and Wales. The Home Secretary's announcement on 7 October 2008 of the availability of £1.6 million to help develop new SARCs and support existing ones will contribute further to the expansion of SARCs.

Theft: Metals

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of *(a)* the incidence of metal theft and *(b)* the cost of such theft to (i) Government, (ii) local authorities and (iii) other public bodies; and if she will make a statement. [224901]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We are supporting the Association of Chief Police Officers-led Conductive Metal Theft working group to address the problem of metal theft and will be working closely with all stakeholders and Government Departments to establish effective responses to the problem.

The ACPO working group has produced an analysis which included an assessment of the overall cost of metal theft but this is not broken down into individual costs to Government and other public bodies. The analysis is being used as the basis for the development of the working group's strategy to address the issue

It is clear that the consequences of metal theft can be significant for local communities, businesses and the national infrastructure.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value of (i) aluminium and (ii) stainless steel beer barrels stolen in 2007. [225520]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have made no estimation of the monetary value of aluminium or stainless steel barrels stolen in 2007.

We are working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers-led Conductive Metals Working Group to establish an effective response to the problem of metal theft.

We are aware that each year the brewing industry loses a considerable amount of money from the theft and misappropriation of barrels, kegs, and gas cylinders. Action to address the problem will be part of the ACPO working group strategy to tackle metal theft.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* work permit holders and *(b)* dependants of work permit holders were given leave to enter the UK in each quarter since 1 January 2007. [225139]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The latest available data are for 2007 and shown in the following table.

Annual statistics on work permit holders and their dependants given leave to enter the United Kingdom are published in Table 2.5 of the Home Office Statistical

Bulletin 'Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007' which is available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1008.pdf

Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom as work permit holders and dependants, excluding EEA nationals, 2007[1,2]

Period	Work permit holders[3]	Dependants of work permit holders
	Number of persons	
1st Quarter	22,710	10,425
2nd Quarter	23,385	9,950
3rd Quarter	23,415	10,570
4th Quarter	16,785	6,800
Total	86,295	37,745

[1] Provisional.
[2] Data rounded to the nearest five.
[3] Includes work permit trainees.

Work Permits: Overseas Students

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many overseas students have been granted visas to work in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* nationality, *(b)* age and *(c)* sex; what the average time taken by her Department to process such visa requests is; what recent representations she has received on work visas for overseas students; what steps she has (i) recently taken and (ii) plans to take to reduce the time taken to process such visa requests; how many such applications have been rejected in the last three years; on what grounds; and if she will make a statement; [216202]

(2) how many students from *(a)* Colombia and *(b)* the Maldives studying at UK universities have been granted visas to work in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) age and (ii) sex; what the average time taken by her Department to process such visa applications is; how many such applications were outstanding at the latest date for which figures are available; how many such applications have been rejected in the last three years; on what grounds; what steps she has (A) taken and (B) plans to take to reduce the time taken to process such visa applications; and if she will make a statement. [216203]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

Overseas students

To accurately identify those who switched from student to employment status would involve reviewing each case individually which would result in disproportional costs.

Service standards

The current performance against service standards can be found on the UKBA website. The current service standards were introduced in 2005. Performances against the work permits and HSMP service standards are illustrated in Annex A. New services standards will be introduced as the Points Based System is fully rolled out.

Further information on service standards can be found in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Control of Immigration: Statistics UK – ISSN 1358-51 OX.

Section 4 of the publication details the official statistics relating to after-entry control (please see following table).

Annex A: Highly skilled migrant programme and work permits service standards

Target	2007	2006	2005
			Percentage
Highly skilled migrant programme			
Percentage of applications cleared within 25 working days	90	87	83
Percentage of applications cleared within 70 working days	96	97	93
Work permits			
Percentage of applications cleared within 5 working days	60	75	74
Percentage of applications cleared within 15 working days	88	92	91

Youth Mobility Scheme

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which countries have expressed interest in participating in her Department's Youth Mobility Scheme; and in respect of each, whether her Department has *(a)* accepted it into the scheme, *(b)* rejected it as unsuitable and *(c)* still to take a decision. [224473]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* We have agreed with our counterparts that discussions need to remain confidential in order for countries to feel able to explore their possible involvement and make any appropriate adjustments to fulfil all the criteria for inclusion in the scheme before any public statements about their involvement are made. No final decision has yet been taken on the inclusion of any countries on the Youth Mobility Scheme but a list of participating countries will be published in the Immigration Rules before the scheme is launched at the end of November and this list will continue to be updated as and when countries join or leave the scheme.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members' Centre

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate has been made of the *(a)* administrative and *(b)* maintenance costs of the Members' Centre in Portcullis House in its first year of operation. [225257]

Nick Harvey: The centre opened on 1 July. Staff costs to date have been £32,070. Staff costs for a full year to 30 June 2009 are estimated to be £134,100. Only £7,070 of the staff costs to date, and £34,100 of the full year costs, represents a net increase in spending because the remainder of the staff costs have been met by redeploying staff within the Department of Information Services. Full year maintenance costs, based on an average cost

per square metre in Portcullis House, are estimated to be £4,000. It is not possible to distinguish other administrative costs. Most of these would have arisen in any case if the centre had not existed.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government has taken to assist apprentices with the costs of the apprenticeship scheme. [225335]

Mr. Simon: There is no cost to apprentices for the delivery of their apprenticeship. The Department funds training providers or employers directly for the cost of delivering an apprenticeship framework. Apprentices are waged or receive an allowance from their employer like other employees. Apprentices bear the normal costs associated with employment such as travelling and meals.

Higher Education: Asylum

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what procedures are in place to allow *(a)* asylum seekers under the age of 18 years and *(b)* asylum seekers who are 18 years old or over to obtain education and training; what guidance is given to universities; and if he will make a statement. [224553]

Mr. Lammy: The children of asylum seekers have the same rights as all other children in the United Kingdom during the period of compulsory education. All 16 to 18-year-old asylum seekers are eligible for Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding in respect of their attendance on a further education course in the same way as UK students.

Asylum seekers aged 19 or over are treated as UK students for the purpose of fees for further education where they have been legally in the UK for longer than six months pending consideration of their application for asylum or where they have failed in their claim but have been granted support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This follows the granting of concessions to enable asylum seekers to access LSC funding in certain circumstances, for example for courses teaching English for speakers of other languages. Otherwise they are treated as international students, and may be required to cover the full cost of their course. However an FE college or provider has discretion over the level of fee that they actually charge.

Asylum seekers access higher education courses as international students and can expect to be charged the full cost of their course by the university concerned. However, universities have discretion over the level of fee that they actually charge. The Higher Education Refugees and Asylum Seekers network provides guidance on the detailed rules which apply.

Higher Education: Community Relations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government has taken to encourage colleges and universities to provide access to their facilities for the local community. [225570]

Mr. Lammy: Further Education colleges provide a broad range of services to their local communities, not just in education but in support of broader aims relating to economic development, cohesion and social mobility. Colleges draw most of their students from the local area and work in partnership with other local organisations to determine how their strengths, including their premises and facilities, can best meet their community's needs.

We are supporting them in this through record investment in buildings and equipment. Over the last 10 years, Government investment in the FE estate, including ICT, has totalled £2.4 billion.

The Learning and Skills Council is currently assessing the extent and nature of colleges' provision of wider community activities including the community's use of college facilities and will publish its findings in November. We will draw on these findings to identify good practice and to see what more might be done to support this aspect of colleges' work.

The DIUS consultation "Informal Adult Learning - Shaping the Way Ahead" identified the need for low cost, accessible learning venues as a key issue. DIUS will work with other Government Departments and local authorities to consider how access to a wide range of public spaces, including colleges, can be encouraged and supported to provide free or subsidised venues for book clubs, family history or other groups of people learning for pleasure.

Higher education institutions (HEIs) engage with the public in many ways, including providing access to sports facilities, museums, theatres and galleries; community volunteering by staff and students; and creating lifelong learning opportunities for a diverse body of learners. In 2006/07, over 110,000 people attended charged public lectures (and additionally 650,000 attended free events), and around 1,400,000 attended charged performance arts events organised by HEIs (and 412,000 attended free performance events). In addition, over 6,000 non-commercial partners, such as social, community and cultural organisations have benefited from the use of over £38 million worth of HEI facilities and equipments over the same period.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has recently published the confirmed distribution for 2008-11 of nearly £400 million to HEIs from the Higher Education Innovation Fund round 4 (HEIF 4), following approval of HEI strategies for its work to engage with social, cultural and community organisations, as well as businesses and public services (HEFCE Report 2008/34). An overview and assessment of these strategies is also available (HEFCE Report 2008/35).

Higher Education: Intellectual Property

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on exploitation of intellectual property in universities in the last three years. [223822]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and its predecessors and agencies have commissioned four pieces of work on intellectual property and universities during the last three years. In August 2007, an independent report "Streamlining University/Business collaborative research negotiations"

was submitted to the 'Funders Forum' of the Department. The SPRU (science and technology policy research unit, university of Sussex) reports "Exploiting University Intellectual Property in the UK" (January 2008) and "Disentangling knowledge transfer: Maximising university revenue, or social and economic benefit, or both?" (May 2008) investigated approaches and attitudes to IP exploitation at universities. Most recently Professor Paul Wellings, Vice Chancellor of Lancaster university, has undertaken a review of intellectual property and research benefits, and his report will be finalised very shortly.

Higher Education: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government have taken to improve the quality of higher education since 1997. [225197]

Mr. Lammy: Working with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) we have supported the continuing enhancement of high quality teaching and learning in higher education (HE) through the core grant and a range of targeted initiatives.

In 1997 an independent body, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), was established to provide an integrated quality assurance service for UK HE. HEFCE has statutory responsibility for the quality assessment of HE in institutions that it funds, and it contracts with the QAA to fulfil this responsibility and to safeguard the public interest in sound standards of HE qualifications.

In addition to a programme of institutional audit, the QAA defines clear and explicit standards for HE, both for public information and as reference points for their quality assurance services. These include a framework for HE qualifications, subject benchmark statements, programme specifications, and the code of practice in HE.

We have encouraged the HE sector's introduction of the publication of a range of accurate and up to date information about each institution on the website www.unistats.ac.uk. This includes the results of the National Student Survey (NSS) which asks final year students for views on the quality of their teaching and learning experience. The results serve to inform prospective students and promote continuous improvement in institutions. Since it started the NSS has shown a high level of consistency in relation to overall student satisfaction with the quality of their courses— around 80 per cent. from 2005 to 2008.

We have also worked in partnership with the sector to raise the status and profile of teaching in HE through:

- the introduction in 2000 of the national teaching fellowship scheme to reward and recognise teaching excellence and spread good practice;
- the creation of the HE academy in 2004 to support institutions and individuals to provide the best possible learning experience;
- the development of 74 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (2005) with a focus on enhancing student learning through sharing excellent practice and promoting innovation; and
- development by the HE academy in 2006 of new professional standards for teaching in HE.

Higher Education: Student Wastage

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government have taken to increase completion rates of university degrees. [225198]

Mr. Lammy: We are maintaining very good completion rates for first degrees with the latest statistics from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development showing that the UK ranks 3rd of the 27 countries reporting data in this area. This has been achieved and maintained during a period when higher education has been opened up to both increased numbers and a greater diversity of students.

However, the Government are not complacent and accept that there is more that we could do, which is why we welcomed the recommendations of the National Audit Office study and the follow-on Public Accounts Committee report on the retention of students in higher education.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England is taking forward these recommendations and working with the higher education sector to disseminate good practice and help higher education institutions learn from what works well elsewhere. HEFCE held regional workshops last spring to examine these issues and they are joint funding seven projects with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation over the next three years to inform better targeting of institutional support for students.

Learning Disability

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government have taken to provide support to students who have learning difficulties. [225116]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England provides higher education institutions with funding to support disabled students through the mainstream disability allocation. The Council's overall disability funding allocation for the sector has increased from £7 million in 2000/01 (when it was introduced) to £13 million in 2008/09.

We also provide funding directly to students through disabled students' allowances (DSAs), which can help to remove the obstacles that prevent disabled students (including students with specific learning difficulties) from entering and completing higher education courses. In 2006/07, the latest year for which figures are available, we provided approximately £81 million to 38,000 students.

From this academic year the non-medical helper's allowance (for undergraduates) and the postgraduate allowance will be increased by around 60 per cent. These increases mean that

- the maximum amount of DSA for non-medical helpers has increased from £12,420 in 2007/08 to £20,000 in 2008/09 for full-time undergraduates, and from £9,315 to £15,000 for part-time undergraduates.
- the maximum amount of the DSA for postgraduate students has increased from £5,915 in 2007/08 to £10,000 in 2008/09.

DSAs are provided in addition to the standard student support package; they are not means tested and do not have to be repaid.

Mathematics: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of over 16 year-olds who do not have a grade C or above in mathematics at GCSE or an equivalent qualification. [224565]

Mr. Simon: The Skills for Life survey in 2003 estimated the literacy and numeracy levels and functional ability of adults in England. The Skills for Life survey reported that 13 per cent. of adults aged 16-65 achieved a D-G grade or equivalent in GCSE maths. 42 per cent. have a maths GCSE A*-C grade or equivalent and 45 per cent. do not have a maths qualification at GCSE level.

Students: Loans

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the student loan book has been sold in accordance with the provisions of the Sale of Student Loans Act 2008. [224171]

Mr. Lammy: No sales of income-contingent repayment student loans have yet been made. We are continuing to prepare for the first such sale and are monitoring market conditions accordingly.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Underspent Budgets

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department treats individual country budgets underspent in a financial year. [225569]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 104W, (UIN 224475).

St. Helena: Airports

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when a decision will be made on tenders for the construction of an airport on the Island of St. Helena; and if he will make a statement. [225663]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I expect a decision to be made shortly.

JUSTICE

Cemeteries: Lancashire

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on topple testing in cemeteries in the borough of Blackburn with Darwen. [222831]

Mr. Straw: I have received a number of representations in my capacity as Member of Parliament for Blackburn. I therefore understand fully the concerns of my hon. Friend about this matter. My officials are currently working with the Health and Safety Executive and industry stakeholders to clarify what health and safety legislation does and does not require in respect of assessing and dealing with risks presented by unstable gravestones and ensuring proper communication with relatives.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many instances of data lost by Government Departments there have been in the last 12 months. [220465]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 25-26WS.

Data losses by Government Departments are included in annual reporting for 2007-08 published by Departments.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many notifications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies made to the Information Commissioner following the loss or mishandling of personal information or data in each of the last three years; and what was notified in each case. [222898]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has published details of the personal data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its resource accounts laid before this House on 21 July 2008.

Before 2007 the Information Commissioner's Office did not specifically keep records of instances of security breaches. No formal notifications were made.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in government.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many encrypted memory sticks have been supplied to *(a)* prison service staff, *(b)* National Offender Management Service staff, *(c)* National Probation Service staff, *(d)* court and judicial staff and *(e)* District, Circuit and High Court Judges and Lord Justices of Appeal. [225343]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service (including the National Probation Service and the Prison Service) has issued guidance to all staff, whether permanent or under contract, that they should only use encrypted memory sticks. Approved procurement arrangements have been put in place to enable staff to purchase suitable devices for their use. The rest of the Ministry of Justice has been instructed not to use non-approved memory sticks.

Departmental Legislation

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Answer by Lord Hunt of King's Heath of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 61WA, on crime: new offences, what the timetable for the assembly of the information is; and if he will place a copy in the Library when it has been prepared. [222196]

Maria Eagle: The information requested involved a manual trawl through primary and subordinate legislation from the past 11 years. I have today placed a copy in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [221965]

Mr. Wills: The following tables show how much the Ministry of Justice and its predecessor, (the Department for Constitutional Affairs) and its agencies has spent in each of the last 36 months through the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework.

Ministry of Justice

Department area	*2006-07 (£)*	*2007-08 (£)*	*2008-09 (£)*	*PR/marketing company*
HQ	5,522	31,040	—	Four Communications
Her Majesty's Courts Service	—	8,400	—	Amazon PR
	—	35,478	—	Good Relations
	—	1,880	—	Four Communications
Office of the Public Guardian	—	50,000	—	Amazon PR
National Offender Management Service	—	33,619	—	The Red Consultancy
	—	—	120,657	Fishburn Hedges
Office for Criminal Reform	—	36,500	—	Good Relations
Total	5,522	196,917	120,657	—

Former Department of Constitutional Affairs

Department area	*2005-06 (£)*	*2006-07 (£)*	*2008-09 (£)*	*PR/marketing company*
Her Majesty's Courts Service	17,500	4,550	n/a	Blue Rubicon Four Communications
Total	17,500	4,550	n/a	—

Department Agencies

Agency	*2006-07 (£)*	*2007-08 (£)*	*2008-09 (£)*	*PR/marketing company*
HM Land Registry	104,892.92	97,623.85	—	The Forster Company
Judicial Appointments Commission	4,340	—	—	Luther Pendragon
Total	190,232.92	97,623.85	—	—

EU Law

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [222270]

Mr. Wills: This Government are firmly committed to the importance of the EU in delivering on 21st century challenges. The EU is of central importance to the work of HM Government across all Departments. It is relevant to a wide range of policy areas, and to the work of many Government officials.

Within the Ministry of Justice, there are currently 22 officials in total who are wholly or mainly tasked with the negotiation, implementation or the administration of EU legislation and consequent policies.

Offenders: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many ex-service personnel have been convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to custody in the last five years; [225667]

(2) how many personnel who were discharged from the Army in the last five years have been subsequently convicted of a criminal offence; [225668]

(3) what the prison population is in England and Wales; and how many of those prisoners have served in the armed forces in the last 10 years. [225658]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of August 2008 there were 83,406 prisoners detained in all prison establishments in England and Wales.

This figure was drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Data from nationally representative surveys of some 2,000 sentenced prisoners near release conducted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 show the proportion of prisoners who had previously served in the armed forces as 6 per cent., 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively.

We are unable to identify the occupation of an offender from the Court Proceedings Database. As such, we cannot tell the number of ex-service personnel that are convicted and sentenced to immediate custody.

Information held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform cannot separately identify the occupation of the defendant.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by his Department and its predecessor has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [221963]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Minister of State for the Home Office my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Procedural Reform

25. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Leader of the House what procedural reforms of the House of Commons she and her predecessors have instigated since July 2001. [225261]

Chris Bryant: The Government have continued since 2001 to advance their programme of procedural reform in the Commons. This has included modernisation of sitting hours and the publication in advance of an annual parliamentary calendar.

There has been improved topicality with a reduced notice period for oral questions, the introduction of topical questions and debates, more effective limits for speaking times, and introduction of the tabling of written questions in September

The establishment of evidence-taking opportunities at the committee stage of Bills, improved explanatory material and plainer language for legislation, publication of a draft legislative programme, and the introduction of a new process to promote post-legislative scrutiny has enhanced Members' ability to scrutinise legislation.

The strengthening of Select Committees and payment of salaries to Committee Chairs, had encouraged greater examination of Government, with enhanced scrutiny of the Prime Minster by the Liaison Committee.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums her Office conducted in each of the last two years; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost to her Office was of each such consultation. [221860]

Chris Bryant: The Leader of the House has initiated the following, which could be considered be either a public forum or listening exercise:

Public forum/ listening exercise	*Date announced*	*Reference in Official Report*	*Cost (£)*
Draft Legislative Programme public consultation 2007	11 July 2007	Vol. 462, Col. 1449	81,612[1]
Review of European Scrutiny	25 October 2007	Vol. 465, Col. 443	0
Review of Parliamentary pay and pensions conducted by Sir John Baker	16 January 2008	Vol. 470, Col 32WS	11,696.40[1]
Review of topical debates	7 February 2008	Vol. 471, Col. 83WS	0
Draft Legislative Programme public consultation 2008	14 May 2008	Vol. 475, Col. 1385	62,957.38[1]
Review of the Parliamentary Pension Scheme	17 June 2008	Vol. 477, Col. 45WS	[2]
Parliamentary audit and practice assurance	16 July 2008	Vol. 479, Col. 31WS	5,354

[1] All, or part, of these costs were paid for by the Cabinet Office.
2 This review has not yet been completed.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr. Haude) of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: Official Hospitality, what use her Office has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [222191]

Ms Harman: None.

Members' Staff: Redundancy Pay

Lynne Jones: To ask the Leader of the House whether the redundancy arrangements available to staff of hon. Members will be part of the next Senior Salaries Review Body review of parliamentary pay, pensions and allowances. [225975]

Chris Bryant: The Senior Salaries Review Body is due to conduct a review of parliamentary pay shortly after the next general election. It is expected that this review will also include parliamentary pensions and allowances.

Careful consideration will be given as to the issues across these areas that should be brought to the attention the Review Body. However, as it may be up to 18 months before the Review Body begin their work it would be inappropriate to begin setting out now the detailed topics to be considered.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Leader of the House how much, on average, staff of hon. Members received in redundancy payments in each of the last 10 years. [226012]

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Leader of the House how much on average staff of hon. Members received in redundancy payments in each of the last 10 years. [225253]

Chris Bryant: Most redundancies involving hon. Members' staff arise from a Member leaving the House at a general election. Members' staff contracts specify that when a redundancy occurs the amount payable is set at the statutory rate, which is linked to a formula which takes account of salary, length of service and age.

In addition, Members can, at their discretion, top-up or match this contractual entitlement from their parliamentary allowances, or make a discretionary payment where there is no eligibility to a payment at the statutory rate.

The average redundancy payment in each year since 2003-04 was as follows:

	Amount (£)
2003-04	3,251
2004-05	3,420
2005-06	3,262
2006-07	5,194
2007-08	3,922

Information is not readily available for prior years.

Regional Committees

Mr. Heath: To ask the Leader of the House what plans she has to bring forward proposals for the orders of reference for regional Select Committees. [225252]

Ms Harman: On 21 July, the Government published their proposal on the introduction of regional committees—both Select Committees and Grand Committees—in response to the third report from the Modernisation Committee. As indicated in that response, we intend to bring forward the detailed proposals in the period before the end of the current Session with the hope that the committees—if approved by the House—could begin work in the new year.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Birmingham

Pete Wishart: To ask the Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the number of people from the public who attended the Cabinet meeting events in Birmingham. [225341]

The Prime Minister: The visit of the Cabinet to Birmingham was preceded by several ministerial visits across the region; a public engagement event with approximately 250 people was followed by a formal Cabinet meeting and an economic event.

In addition, I have today placed in the Library of the House the "Response to Cabinet public engagement event Birmingham 2008", copies are also available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/events/birmingham.aspx

Pete Wishart: To ask the Prime Minister what the total cost was of the Cabinet visit to Birmingham, broken down by *(a)* staff time, *(b)* staff travel, *(c)* staff accommodation, *(d)* Ministerial travel, *(e)* Ministerial accommodation, *(f)* hire and additional costs of venue, *(g)* publicity, *(h)* security and *(i)* costs of Ministerial visits and photocalls associated with the Cabinet visit. [225342]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Members for Worthing, West (Peter Bottomley) and for North Cornwall (Dan Rogerson) on 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2229W.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his office and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221593]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Phil Hope) on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1830W.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister which projects his office has commissioned form *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221623]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Member for Cardiff, West (kevin Brennan) the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 651W.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister how many and what proportion of staff in his office are disabled; and what the average salary in his office is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [220182]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 651-57W.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Building Capacity in the Third Sector

Greg Clark: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission when the National Audit Office plans to publish its report "Building Capacity in the Third Sector"; and what the reason is for the time taken to publish the report. [225346]

Mr. Alan Williams: The Public Accounts Commission is responsible for oversight of the National Audit Office's funding and governance, but the Comptroller and Auditor General has complete discretion in the discharge of his work programme. The hon. Member may wish to write directly to the C and AG about the report referred to.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Victim and Witness Support

7. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Attorney-General's office and Crown Prosecution Service have taken to improve support provided by the criminal justice system for victims and witnesses with mental health difficulties. [225240]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service has taken a number of important steps with its criminal justice partners to improve support for victims and witnesses with mental health problems. They include needs assessments conducted by the police and witness care officers that assist the prosecutor in considering what support is necessary both in court and outside.

Human Trafficking

8. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions the Crown Prosecution Service has brought for offences of human trafficking in the last three years. [225241]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service's records show that the following prosecutions have been brought on charges under sections 57, 58 and 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, alleging trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation in the last three years:

	Number of prosecutions
2005-06	18
2006-07	40
2007-08	87

These data relate only to the number of charged offences which reached first hearing in the magistrates courts.

Human trafficking cases may also be prosecuted under other legislation for offences such as assisting unlawful immigration to a member state (facilitation), or other serious offences such as rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, threats to kill and causing or inciting prostitution for gain.

Prosecutions: Cannabis

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions have been brought by the Crown Prosecution Service against people found running cannabis factories in the last five years. [225234]

The Solicitor-General: Offences relating to the cultivation of cannabis are prosecuted under s6 (2) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. However, there is no distinct offence of running a cannabis factory, nor an agreed definition of what constitutes a cannabis factory, and therefore no discrete figures are held for such proceedings.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Fuels

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of improvements in aircraft fuel efficiency *(a)* in the last 20 years and *(b)* in the next 20 years. [225151]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The Department for Transport published its forecasts of UK air passenger demand and UK aviation CO_2 emissions in November 2007. Assumptions on future improvements in aircraft fuel efficiency were inputs to that process and are described in full in chapter 3 of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts". An assessment of past trends in fuel efficiency is also presented. The document can be viewed at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/airpassdemandfullreport.pdf.

Shipping: Fuels

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to ensure that changes to the permitted level of sulphur content in marine fuel oils do not lead to disproportionate cost increases for UK ferry operators. [225207]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The Government are currently in the process of transposing the existing Annex VI (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) of MARPOL into UK law and will be following this legislation with the implementation of the EU Sulphur Content of Liquid Fuels Directive.

These measures have been agreed internationally and regionally and establish standards for the sulphur content of marine fuels. MARPOL Annex VI applies to all vessels equally while the EC measure targets emissions in port and from vessels engaged in regular service between EC ports.

In implementing Annex VI, the Government have undertaken a series of consultations and sought to ensure that the measures are applied in a fair, transparent and equal manner across the maritime sector to ensure a level playing field for the industry. A further consultation on the EC Directive will be carried out in the spring of 2009.

Additionally the revisions to Annex VI of MARPOL have been developed as a result of work by an International Maritime Organisation (IMO) group of experts and take account of the cost and availability of fuel. The implementation of this will in due course be subject to UK consultation.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts about changes to the level of sulphur content in marine fuel oil in ships operating in environmental control areas. [225208]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* Department for Transport officials are involved in regular discussions with officials from other member states and the European Commission on the issue of the sulphur content of marine fuels.

Recently there have been a series of both formal and informal experts meetings and other events hosted by the Commission considering emissions from shipping, notably in advance of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) negotiations on the revision of MARPOL Annex VI (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships). These discussions have focused around both the actual standards to be included in the revised Annex and the implications for the cost and supply of fuel.

The successful outcome at IMO on these revisions was in large part down to the work by EU member states to develop a compromise text that was agreed as being a significant advance on current standards while being financially and practically achievable by the international shipping community. Subsequent to this agreement member states have continued to coordinate on the issue in advance of implementation of the revised annex.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the UK ferry industry of the proposed change to the MARPOL regulations to reduce sulphur levels in marine fuel oil. [225209]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* Prior to entering into negotiations on the revised Annex VI package at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Government consulted the shipping sector within the UK through the relevant trade associations. During work to finalise the revisions, the UK delegation worked closely with industry colleagues to confirm they were content with the final package.

The implications for the ferry industry have been discussed within EU working groups and the European Commission have confirmed they are undertaking work to consider the implications of the proposed package for the short sea sector. Additionally, the UK will undertake an impact assessment considering these issues and officials are currently developing proposals to undertake research into the environmental and economic implications of the revised Annex VI package which will consider the ferry sector.

TREASURY

Bank Notes: Visually Impaired

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to introduce paper currency with identifiable marks to assist visually-impaired individuals. [225160]

Ian Pearson: The existing features in Bank of England banknotes that are intended to assist the visually-impaired to recognise different banknotes are

(a) the four denominations are different sizes and colours;

(b) each note, except for the £50 which is an old design, carries large numerals of the denomination in a colour that is markedly differentiated from the background;

(c) all the notes are designed to look different from other currencies

This approach reflects consultation with the Royal National Institute of Blind People. The Bank will continue to take account of the views of the RNIB and others representing the partially sighted.

Child Benefit

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken to process child benefit applications in respect of first-born children was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [225158]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available.

Excise Duties: Kerosene

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of duty was charged on kerosene in each year since 2001. [225751]

Angela Eagle: Historical duty rates for kerosene are given in HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageExcise_RatesCodesTools&propertyType=document&id=HMCE_PROD1_023552

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 912-13W, on housing: valuation, if he will rank each individual locality according to the value significance of its coefficient. [225560]

Mr. Timms: The coefficient referred to is calculated by the automated valuation model using multiple regression analysis. The calculations use information specific to a valuation area (usually a billing authority) and so it is not possible to rank them.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 988W, on housing: valuation, how many localities there are in each individual billing area. [225641]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W.

Income Tax: Foreign Workers

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income tax revenue was received from non-UK citizens working in the UK in 2007-08. [225513]

Mr. Timms: Information on income tax contributions paid by non-UK citizens is not reported separately.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 21 July 2008 concerning Mr. S. Browne of Coval Lane, Chelmsford, sent to the Financial Secretary. [225134]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Repossession Orders

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of housing repossessions; and if he will make a statement. [222394]

Ian Pearson: On 2 September, the Government announced a significant package of measures to help borrowers in difficulty, help first time buyers and support the house-building industry. Further details of these measures are available on the websites of the Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Government also provide assistance for homeowners facing financial difficulties through the provision of debt advice. They announced in May 2008 a £10 million package of measures to ensure that financial advice and support is available for borrowers who may need it. Details of the announcement are available on the Treasury website.

Revenue and Customs

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases were pursued in each of the last nine financial years by HM Revenue and Customs in respect of Regulation 49 of the Income Tax (Employee) Regulations 1993 and section 8 of the Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions etc) Act 1999; and of these, how many led to HM Revenue and Customs lodging an appeal in the High Court. [225662]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs do not hold this specific data.

Tax Allowances: Pensions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the proportion of tax relief on pensions which is claimed by higher rate taxpayers. [222942]

Ian Pearson: The proportion of tax relief on individual and employees' pension contributions that is claimed by higher rate taxpayers is estimated to be 60 per cent. The equivalent figures for employer contributions are not available.

This figure is sourced from 2005-06 survey data that have been adjusted to account for the 2008-09 tax rates, and have been rounded to the nearest 5 per cent.

Tax Yields

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the tax revenue accruing to the Exchequer in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [225514]

Angela Eagle: The latest central Government total current receipts forecasts were provided in Budget 2008. Updated forecasts will be provided in the forthcoming 2008 pre-Budget report.

Taxation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's policy is on the levying of retrospective taxation. [224330]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The Government believe it is important to have a stable tax system that provides certainty for individuals and businesses, along with a commitment to fairness. The Government have therefore always limited the use of provisions applied to taxable events that have occurred prior to the enactment of the new policy. Only where the Government consider that it is necessary to protect revenue and also that it is fair, proportionate and in the public interest, will such provisions be used.

Valuation Office: Information and Communications Technology

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the title is of the mapping product that the Valuation Office Agency has licensed from TENET. [225646]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 140W.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the status is of the contractual arrangement between Rightmove.co.uk plc and the Valuation Office; and whether the Valuation Office Agency continues to use the Rightmove interface to collect property data on domestic dwellings. [225652]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1106-07W.

VAT: Registration

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what time scale targets are placed on HM Revenue and Customs to register applications by companies for value added tax purposes; and if he will make a statement. [225665]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs do not have a time scale target for companies alone but have a departmental strategic objective to process 70 per cent. of VAT registration applications from all businesses within 10 days by 2010-11.

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new companies are waiting for their applications for registration for value added tax purposes to be finalised by HM Revenue and Customs; what the longest waiting time was in the last three years from date of application; and if he will make a statement. [225666]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not separately identify applications received from companies.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Public Sector: Learning Disability

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of people in employment in the public sector who are categorised as having learning difficulties. [214291]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the percentage of people in employment in the public sector who are categorised as having learning difficulties. (214291)

For the three month period ending in June 2008, it is estimated that 0.3 per cent of people who reported that they were employed in the public sector said that they had severe or specific learning difficulties.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Alternatives to Imprisonment

12. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues about alternatives to imprisonment for women. [225245]

Maria Eagle: The Government are fully committed to providing appropriate alternatives to custody for women who are not violent or dangerous, in line with Baroness Corston's review of vulnerable women in the criminal justice system. I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on this matter through the Inter Ministerial Group on reducing re-offending and the Inter Ministerial sub-group on Corston implementation.

Toilet Facilities

13. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what her policy is on the provision of an equivalent level of toilet facilities for men and women at places of entertainment. [225246]

Maria Eagle: Guidance on provision of toilet facilities is set out in British Standard 6465 parts 1 and 2.

Equal Pay

14. **John Robertson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government is taking to ensure that men and women receive equal pay for work of equal value; and if she will make a statement. [225247]

Maria Eagle: The Government fund organisations ACAS, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and BusinessLink, to which employees and employers can go to for advice and support. We introduced the equal pay questionnaire in 2003 to help people who believe they may not have received equal pay. They can use this to request vital information from their employers in order to establish whether they have a case.

16. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government is taking to reduce the gender pay gap. [225249]

Maria Eagle: The Government's proposals for the Equality Bill include the banning of secrecy clauses which prevent people discussing their own pay, extending the use of positive action, and getting public bodies to report on important inequalities such as gender pay. The Government will also work with business and unions to improve pay transparency, and consider the case for introducing representative actions in discrimination cases.

Workplace Sexism

15. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps the Government has taken to tackle sexism in the workplace. [225248]

Maria Eagle: We are taking steps to strengthen parental rights, improve provision of child care and extend the right to request flexible working. We have also strengthened laws to tackle sexual harassment and protect pregnant women. We are tackling low pay in the workplace through the national minimum wage and tax credits. There is still more to do, and we intend to take further steps through the Equality Bill.

Rape Crisis Centres

18. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what proportion of the emergency funding for rape crisis centres, announced in March, has been distributed. [225251]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Basingstoke (Mrs. Miller).

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Minister has responsibility for the academies programme; and if he will make a statement. [225415]

Jim Knight: I am the Minister responsible for the academies programme.

There are now 130 academies open in 62 local authorities, with a further four projected to open in January 2009 (taking the totals to 134 in 64 LAs). I anticipate that a further 80 will open in 2009 and a further 100 in 2010.

The Government are committed to establishing at least 400 academies nationwide; and the National Challenge, launched this year by the Prime Minister and Secretary of State, has led to a further acceleration of the academies programme.

Self-reported provisional data from academies show that in this year's GCSE results, academies have increased by around five percentage points the proportion of pupils with at least five good GCSE results including English and maths compared to last year. This is the third year running that academies are likely to have achieved a substantially better improvement rate than the national average for all schools.

Academies: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the number of children in academies in each year from 2002 to 2008; what proportion was entitled to free school meals in each year; and if he will make a statement. [224673]

Jim Knight: The information is given in the table.

Maintained secondary schools and academies: school meal arrangements[1] Position in January each year 2003 to 2008: England

	Maintained secondary schools			*Academies*		
	Number of pupils (used for FSM calculation)	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*% of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Number of pupils (used for FSM calculation)*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*% of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
2003	3,308,490	478,920	14.5	2,720	1,230	45.3
2004	3,326,800	477,290	14.3	10,220	4,250	41.6
2005	3,317,590	485,520	14.0	15,200	5,920	39.0
2006	3,309,720	448,680	13.6	25,310	8,480	33.5
2007	3,272,480	429,700	13.1	41,560	13,890	33.4
2008	3,214,031	410,810	12.8	74,530	21,630	29.0

[1] Pupils are recorded as eligible only if a claim for free school meals has been made.

Note

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Academies: Governors

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* parent governors and *(b)* local authority governors there are for each academy; and if he will make a statement. [225067]

Jim Knight: We do not hold information on the precise number of parent and LA governors for each academy, but as part of their funding agreements, all academies must have at least one local authority representative on their governing body, and at least one parent governor.

Where the local authority is a co-sponsor, the lead sponsor retains majority control over the Academy Trust, but can appoint two local authority appointed governors to the governing body.

Academies: Grants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what start-up grants are made available to new academies; how long they last; and what their average amount is. [225066]

Jim Knight: New academies are eligible for two types of start-up grants. Start-up grant (a) is for books, materials and equipment. It is based on the expected pupil capacity of the academy and most of the total grant is paid in the first year after opening, although smaller amounts are payable in later years if pupil numbers are initially below 90 per cent. of capacity. Its value depends on whether there is a predecessor school and whether the academy has a sixth form. The average awarded to academies opening in 2008/09 was £873,601.

Start-up (b) grant is paid for two main purposes: to cover senior management overhead costs while an academy is building to capacity, and to meet transitional costs, for instance those arising while building work makes some facilities unusable, or meeting curriculum commitments for students of predecessor schools. It is mostly paid in the first two or three years after opening but will continue for longer if an academy has no predecessor. Because the grant (which is partly formulaic and partly assessed from bids) depends on the circumstances of each academy, the amounts awarded vary considerably. For academies opening in 2008/09, the average awarded has been £969,104 (the median was £780,335, with sums ranging from £122,740 to £3,203,252).

Academies: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academies *(a)* do and *(b)* do not follow national pay and conditions for staff. [225069]

Jim Knight: The DCSF does not hold information on academy teaching staff, school leader or principals' salaries as these are matters for academy governing bodies.

Academies governing bodies have freedom to set pay and conditions for staff. However, staff transferring from predecessor schools are protected by TUPE and so it is likely that most academies will have some teachers on national pay and conditions.

Academies may use their freedoms around pay and conditions in order to tailor the teaching to the needs of the pupils. For example, many have varied the length of the school day and year, to better serve the demands of the pupils and communities.

Academies: Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on rates of exclusion from academies compared with other maintained schools. [224669]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Academies: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academies have been identified by his Department as making inadequate improvement in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and if he will make a statement. [224834]

Jim Knight: During 2006, 2007 and 2008 there have been 21 section five inspections of academies; none have been deemed to be making inadequate progress.

The year after each academy opens, Ofsted inspect and report on progress. Ofsted send a letter to the academy with a result of their monitoring visit which is published on their website. In the third year after opening, there is a full section 5 Ofsted inspection. During 2006, 2007 and 2008 there have been 27 monitoring visits paid to different academies. Of these, in 2007 St. Mark's C of E Academy was monitored by Ofsted who judged it was making inadequate progress in raising standards. Its progress was monitored again in 2008 and it was judged to be making inadequate progress though the significant changes in the academy's leadership were reported positively. The DCSF is working closely with governors to ensure good improvement is made before the next monitoring visit.

Stockley Academy was monitored in March 2008 and judged at that time to be making inadequate progress. However it was monitored again in late September and at the oral feedback the inspectors judged it was now making at least satisfactory progress. The written report will be available on the Ofsted website in the next two weeks.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what powers his Department has to intervene where academies are making inadequate progress; and how often such powers have been used. [224835]

Jim Knight: The Funding Agreements and Memorandum and Articles of Association of Academies give the Secretary of State powers to appoint extra governors to the Governing Body of an Academy, and thereby take control of the Academy, when he is satisfied that:

The standards of performance of pupils at the Academy is unacceptably low and is likely to remain so, or

There has been a serious breakdown in the way the Academy is managed or governed which is prejudicing, or likely to prejudice, such standards of performance, or

The safety of pupils or staff of the Academy is threatened (whether by a breakdown of discipline or otherwise).

Such an action would only occur after a sequence of events involving the Secretary of State warning the Governing Body about the situation and the Governing Body not responding to the problem to his satisfaction.

The Secretary of State can also use these powers in the case of a Special Measures Termination Event. This occurs after a sequence of events involving OfSTED giving the Academy a special measures notice and finding insufficient progress on their next visit, and the Secretary of State not being satisfied with the Academy Trust's plans for dealing with the situation. The Secretary of State can also terminate the Funding Agreement in a Special Measures Termination Event.

At present the Secretary of State has not been required to use these powers. Where there have been concerns the Department has worked with academy sponsors to address them.

Academies: Trade Unions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academies *(a)* do and *(b)* do not recognise trade unions; and if he will make a statement. [225070]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information centrally. However, as stated in the academies prospectus of 2007, as good employers we would expect academies to recognise staff associations.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 928, on the Building Schools for the Future Programme, if he will *(a)* update the results for 2008 and *(b)* give the dates on which the Building Schools for the Future Programme (i) began and (ii) was completed in each school. [225043]

Jim Knight: The validated 2008 GCSE results will be available in January 2009. The following table shows the Building Schools for the Future start dates for schools in the National Challenge for each wave of the programme, based on the 2007 results. The start date relates to the

local authority's entry to the programme. The table also shows the same information for BSF 'One School Pathfinders' and new academies procured under the Partnerships for Schools National Framework.

	Project started	*Number of schools completed*	*Number of schools in progress*	*Total*
BSF Quick Wins	2004	2 (in 2006)	0	2
BSF wave 1	2004	9 (in 2008)	38	47
BSF wave 2	2005	0	32	32
BSF wave 3	2006	0	26	26
BSF wave 4	2007	0	36	36
BSF wave 5	2008	0	33	33
BSF wave 6	2008	0	28	28
BSF wave 6a	2008	0	20	20
National framework academies	2007	0	39	39
BSF 'One School Pathfinders'	2006	0	8	8
Total		11	260	271

Note:
A further six school projects are expected to be completed in the current financial year.

Children's Centres

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children starting primary school in *(a)* Bassetlaw constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England had previously attended a Sure Start children's centre in the latest period for which figures are available. [225277]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students were entitled to education maintenance allowance in each local authority area in the academic year 2007-08; and what percentage of students took up their entitlement. [225127]

Jim Knight: Eligibility for the education maintenance allowance (EMA) is based on household income. The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on household income for every eligible 16 to 18-year-old who participates in a course that meets the EMA valid provision criteria. Therefore it is not possible to calculate the number of students who were entitled to EMA in each local authority area, or what percentage of students took up their entitlement.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what costs are incurred by students seeking to re-take *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* English language GCSE examinations. [224934]

Jim Knight: The amount awarding bodies charge is the same whether a candidate is retaking an examination or sitting it for the first time. Examination centres (eg schools or colleges) decide whether or not they charge candidates who wish to retake exams.

Each awarding body based in England sets the examination fees they charge for GCSEs. The examinations and assessment regulator, Ofqual, works closely with the awarding bodies to monitor the costs of examination fees to ensure value for money. It is for the awarding bodies to publish details of these costs on their websites for each of the specifications they offer. Typically the cost of GCSE mathematics and English examinations is between £20 and £40.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students have taken *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* English language GCSE examinations for a second time in each of the last 10 years. [224935]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many key stage two scripts were unmarked as at 14 July; and if he will make a statement; [221782]

(2) how many key stage two and key stage three text scripts were sent out to the wrong markers in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and if he will make a statement; [221783]

(3) how many key stage two and key stage three text scripts were reported mislaid in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and if he will make a statement; [221784]

(4) how many key stage two and key stage three test markers were rejected for lack of reliability during the live marking of the tests in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and if he will make a statement; [221785]

(5) what proportion of *(a)* key stage two and *(b)* key stage three tests in (i) science, (ii) English and (iii) mathematics were (A) marked, (B) marked with results entered into a computer system and (C) marked and returned to the relevant school by (1) 8 July and (2) 15 July 2008; and if he will make a statement; [221787]

(6) what proportion of key stage two and key stage three scripts were sent out late to markers in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and if he will make a statement; [221788]

(7) what percentage of appeals against key stage two and key stage three marking were upheld in each year from 2005 to 2008; how many appeals were received in each year; and if he will make a statement. [221789]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of national curriculum tests. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests and manages the delivery contract, on QCA's behalf. David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Parents: Employment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to assist parents seeking employment with their child care responsibilities. [224986]

Beverley Hughes: In September of this year, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced the new "Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work" programme which is supported through £75 million of funding to run from January 2009 to March 2011. The programme will be piloted in 67 local authorities from January with a national roll-out from September 2009. The programme is aimed at lower income couple families where one parent is working and the second parent is not working and wishes to undertake training on route to employment.

Funding will cover travel costs and the full cost of child care subject to a maximum of £175 (£205 for London).

The programme will look to complement other existing child care support for families moving into work such as the Free Entitlement programme for 3 and 4-year-olds, £3.5 million of support made available through tax credit every day, the Childcare Affordability Programme in London and other initiatives run through Job Centre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council.

Pupil Referral Units

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils spent some time in a pupil referral unit in each year since their introduction; [224931]

(2) how many and what percentage of students in pupil referral units had been there for more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* a year, *(d)* two years, *(e)* three years, *(f)* four years and *(g)* five years in each of the last 10 years; [224932]

(3) how many pupils have spent more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* a year, *(d)* two years, *(e)* three years, *(f)* four years and *(g)* five years in a pupil referral unit since their introduction. [224933]

Jim Knight: Information on how long a pupil has attended a pupil referral unit is not collected centrally.

The available information shows the number of pupils attending a pupil referral unit in January of each year since 1999 and is shown in the table. The table excludes pupil with dual registration, information on the number of dual registrations can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information prior to 1999 can also be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupil referral units—number of pupils in January each year: 1999 to 2008

	Number of pupils[1] (headcount)
1999	8,260
2000	8,480
2001	9,290
2002	9,960
2003	12,010
2004	13,040
2005	14,470
2006	15,240
2007	15,160
2008	16,100

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils. Includes pupils with other providers in pupil referral units.

Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 14 year olds *(a)* not entitled and *(b)* entitled to free school meals achieved level five in English, mathematics and science at key stage 3 in each year since 1997. [225123]

Jim Knight: The proportion of Key Stage 3 pupils *(a)* not entitled to free school meals and *(b)* entitled to free school meals who achieved level five and above in English, mathematics and science for 2007 is shown in the following table.

Subject	*Not entitled to free school meals*	*Percentage Entitled to free school meals*
English	78	52
Mathematics	79	55
Science	77	49

Source:
National Pupil Database (provisional figures)

Further details can be found in the in the Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2006/07"

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml,

published in November 2007.

The equivalent figures for 2006 are given in the following table:

Subject	*Not entitled to free school meals*	*Percentage Entitled to free school meals*
English	77	50
Mathematics	81	56
Science	77	48

Source:
National Pupil Database (revised figures)

Further details can be found in the in the Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2005/06 (Revised)"

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000708/index.shtml,

published in February 2007.

Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 7-year-olds *(a)* not entitled and *(b)* entitled to free school meals achieved level two in literacy and numeracy at key stage 1 in each year since 1997. [225125]

Jim Knight: The proportion of 7-year-olds *(a)* not entitled to free school meals and *(b)* entitled to free school meals who achieved level two and above in reading, writing and mathematics for 2007 is shown in the following table:

Subject	*Percentage*	
	Not entitled to free school meals	*Entitled to free school meals*
Reading	87	69
Writing	84	63
Mathematics	92	80

Source: National Pupil Database.

Further details can be found in the Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2006/07"

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml.

published in November 2007.

The equivalent figures for 2006 are shown in the following table:

Subject	*Percentage*	
	Not entitled to free school meals	*Entitled to free school meals*
Reading	88	69
Writing	85	65
Mathematics	92	80

Further details can be found in Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2005/06"

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/index.shtml

published in November 2006.

Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to provide assistance to children who fall behind in writing and mathematics in school. [225199]

Jim Knight: The Primary Framework for literacy and mathematics offers access to a broad range of guidance and resources to support teachers in planning and ensuring their teaching is personalised to the needs of every child. In addition to this we have established the Every Child a Writer and Every Child Counts programmes. Our Children's Plan commitment is to ensure each programme reaches every local authority by 2010/11, and alongside Every Child a Reader we will invest £169 million in ensuring every child masters the basics. All local authorities and schools must have regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice which provides advice on their statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for pupils' special educational needs.

Schools: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many requests for marking reviews of *(a)* key stage 2 and *(b)* key stage 3 2008 tests were received before 30 September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [225172]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency, which administers National Curriculum Tests on behalf of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, is currently unable to publish figures related to the number of reviews received by 30 September. Work is still under way to reconcile data, particularly around review applications for English reading and writing. In addition, review applications continue to be received from schools that have had late delivery of scripts and/or results from prime marking.

Schools: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children eligible for free school meals received an A grade in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* further mathematics, *(e)* history, *(f)* French and *(g)* German A Level in each of the last five years; [224799]

(2) how many and what percentage of children eligible for free school meals received an A or A* grade in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English literature, *(c)* English language, *(d)* physics, *(e)* chemistry, *(f)* biology, *(g)* French and *(h)* German GCSE examinations in each of the last five years. [224800]

Jim Knight: The information for 2006-07 is given in the following tables. Figures for the other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Pupils eligible for FSM			*All pupils*		
	Number of pupils achieving A/A*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*/A*	*Total entries*	*Number of pupils achieving A*/A*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*/A*	*Total entries*
Mathematics	2,871	3.7	78,618	109,837	15.6	705,887
English Literature	3,458	4.1	84,022	104,704	20.0	524,707
English Language	2,771	3.5	79,171	102,054	16.4	621,928
Physics	333	2.2	15,054	25,168	49.0	51,374
Chemistry	364	2.5	14,753	25,016	48.4	51,685

	Pupils eligible for FSM			All pupils		
	Number of pupils achieving A*/A	Percentage of pupils achieving A*/A	Total entries	Number of pupils achieving A*/A	Percentage of pupils achieving A*/A	Total entries
Biology	386	2.5	15,306	25,773	46.8	55,089
French	958	3.5	27,627	43,645	22.9	190,963
German	363	2.8	13,018	17,650	23.2	76,172

Note:
Figures relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools.

	Pupils eligible for FSM			All pupils		
	Number achieving an A grade at GCE A level	Percentage achieving an A grade at GCE A level	Number of entries	Number achieving A grades at GCE A level	Percentage achieving A grades at GCE A level	Number of entries
Biology	111	15.1	734	12,268	26.2	46,797
Chemistry	104	16.6	626	11,435	32.6	35,077
Physics	58	20.9	277	7,535	31.5	23,887
Mathematics	203	29.6	686	23,361	43.8	53,331
Further Mathematics	21	37.5	56	4,126	57.0	7,241
History	66	12.4	534	10,178	25.1	40,542
French	21	17.9	117	4,468	36.8	12,152
German	6	12.5	48	2,080	37.0	5,615

Note:
Figures relate to 16-18 year olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in maintained schools.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures govern the means by which capital funding is devolved to each category of maintained school; and if he will make a statement. [225082]

Jim Knight: Devolved formula capital is paid to local authorities or direct to academies, with amounts ring-fenced to be used for schools' individual priorities. No distinction is made between different categories of school. Modernised schools receive DFC at the standard rate, and unmodernised schools at the higher rate which is twice that of the standard rate.

Academies new-build and refurbishment is funded directly by the Department. Local authorities and voluntary aided schools' governing bodies are provided with further devolved funding, calculated on a formulaic basis, which is prioritised locally across each category of school. This includes funding for modernisation, for basic need expansion, for ICT and for specialist and extended schools. Further information can be found on:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/capialinvestment/

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice he has given to local authorities on seeking clawbacks from individual schools' reserves; and what assessment he has made of the way in which this is being operated in Gloucestershire by the whole school forum. [225426]

Jim Knight: It is now mandatory for all local authorities to include surplus balance controls and from summer 2008 they have been required to operate clawback mechanisms for the 2007-08 revenue balances. DCSF published guidance, "Applying Clawback Mechanisms to Surplus School Revenue Balances", in August 2008. The guidance can be found on the Teachernet website on the School Revenue Balances page.

I explained in my statement to Parliament on 30 October 2007 that my Department will continue to monitor the overall level of surplus balances during the forthcoming spending review period and if the levels reported do not show a significant reduction we will come forward with further action. We have not made an individual assessment of Gloucestershire's clawback mechanism as it is a local matter for the authority and schools forum.

Schools: Languages

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local authority have had no entrants for *(a)* French, *(b)* German and *(c)* Spanish examinations in each of the last five years. [224797]

Jim Knight: The information for the past three years can be found in the answer given on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 428-33W to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr. Gibb).

Further information is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Schools: Local Authorities

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local authority area are in special measures; and if he will make a statement. [224609]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of schools in special measures by local authority at the end of the spring term 2008. The analysis is based on the latest published data from Ofsted, broken down by phase of education.

The Government have made excellent progress in reducing school failure. The overall number of schools in special measures is down from 524 at the end of the 1997/98 academic year to 254 at the end of the spring term 2008.

Number of schools in special measures at the end of spring term 2008

	Prim	PRU	Secondary	Special	Total
Barnet	1	—	—	—	1
Bedfordshire	—	—	1	—	1
Bexley	2	—	2	—	4
Birmingham	5	—	—	—	5
Blackburn	1	—	—	—	1
Bolton	3	—	—	—	3
Bradford	4	—	—	—	4
Brent	2	—	—	—	2
Bristol	3	—	—	—	3
Bromley	2	—	—	1	3
Buckinghamshire	1	—	2	—	3
Bury	1	—	—	—	1
Calderdale	1	—	2	—	3
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	1	1
Cheshire	2	—	—	—	2
Cornwall	2	—	—	—	2
Cumbria	1	—	5	—	6
Darlington	—	1	—	—	1
Derby City	1	—	—	—	1
Derbyshire	3	—	1	—	4
Devon	4	—	—	1	5
Doncaster	1	—	—	—	1
Dorset	1	—	—	—	1
Dudley	1	—	—	—	1
Durham	2	—	—	—	2
Ealing	2	—	—	—	2
East Riding	2	—	1	—	3
East Sussex	3	—	—	—	3
Enfield	1	—	—	—	1
Essex	—	—	3	1	4
Gateshead	1	—	—	—	1
Gloucestershire	1	—	1	1	3
Hackney	2	—	—	—	2
Halton	1	—	—	—	1
Hampshire	4	1	—	—	5
Havering	—	1	—	—	1
Herefordshire	1	—	—	—	1
Hertfordshire	—	—	2	—	2
Hounslow	1	—	—	—	1
Isle of Wight	—	—	1	—	1
Kent	4	—	—	—	4
Kirklees	—	—	1	—	1
Knowsley	1	—	1	1	3
Lambeth	1	—	—	—	1
Lancashire	4	—	3	1	8
Leeds	2	—	1	1	4
Leicester City	6	—	—	—	6
Leicestershire	1	—	—	—	1
Lincolnshire	4	—	—	—	4
Liverpool	1	—	—	—	1
Manchester	2	—	1	—	3
Medway	—	—	1	—	1
Merton	2	—	—	—	2
Milton Keynes	—	1	1	—	2
Newcastle	2	—	—	—	2
Newham	1	—	—	—	1
Non-maintained	—	—	—	1	1
Norfolk	11	1	2	—	14
North Yorkshire	1	—	1	—	2
Northamptonshire	13	—	1	—	14
Northumberland	2	—	1	—	3
Nottingham City	1	—	—	—	1
Nottinghamshire	6	—	—	—	6
Oxfordshire	3	—	—	—	3
Peterborough	2	—	—	—	2
Plymouth	1	—	—	—	1
Poole	1	1	—	1	3
Reading	1	—	—	—	1
Redcar and Cleveland	—	—	—	1	1
Rochdale	—	—	1	—	1
Salford	2	—	—	—	2
Sandwell	—	—	1	—	1
Sheffield	3	—	1	—	4
Shropshire	1	—	—	—	1
Solihull	1	—	—	—	1
Somerset	1	—	—	1	2
Southend	1	—	—	—	1
Southwark	4	—	—	—	4
St. Helens	2	—	—	—	2
Staffordshire	1	—	1	—	2
Stockport	1	—	—	—	1
Stockton on Tees	—	—	1	—	1
Stoke on Trent	2	—	—	—	2
Suffolk	—	—	3	—	3
Sunderland	—	1	—	—	1
Surrey	2	—	1	—	3
Tameside	—	—	1	—	1
Telford and Wrekin	—	—	—	1	1
Thurrock	1	—	1	—	2
Torbay	1	—	—	—	1
Trafford	1	1	—	—	2
Walsall	3	—	1	—	4
Waltham Forest	1	—	—	—	1
Wandsworth	1	—	—	—	1
Warrington	1	—	—	—	1
Warwickshire	3	—	—	—	3
West Berkshire	1	—	—	—	1
West Sussex	1	2	—	1	4
Westminster	—	—	1	—	1
Wigan	1	—	—	1	2
Wiltshire	3	—	—	—	3
Wirral	1	—	—	—	1
Wolverhampton	1	—	—	—	1
Worcestershire	1	—	3	—	4
Grand Total	178	10	51	15	254

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils achieved five good GCSEs in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* independent schools in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [224874]

Jim Knight: The information is given in the following table:

	1996-97		*2006-07*	
	Number of pupils	*Percentage achieved GSCEs 5 or more A*-C grades*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage achieved GSCEs 5 or more A*-C grades*
Comprehensive schools	465,983	43.6	540,962	59.7
Independent schools	41,874	86.5	48,031	88.3

Notes:
1. Figures for 1996-97 relate to 15-year-olds entered for GCSE/GNVQs.
2. Figures for 2006-07 relate to pupils at the end of KS4. Figures include equivalencies.
3. Figures for 1996-97 were published in 'Statistics for Education, Public Examinations, GCSE/GNVQ and GGE in England, 1997', ISBN 0-11-271037-9.
4. Figures for 2006-07 were published in 'DCSF: GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised)' found at http// www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768findex.shtml

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of pupils obtained five good GCSEs including English and mathematics in the 100 least deprived lower super output areas in 2008; [224876]

(2) what percentage of pupils obtained a GCSE at grade C or above in mathematics in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by decile of the indices of multiple deprivation; [224878]

(3) what percentage of pupils achieved five good GCSEs including English and mathematics in the 100 most deprived lower super output areas in 2008. [224881]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The available information is published in tables 21 to 24 of "DCSF: GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised)" Statistical First Release on attainment by deprivation, rurality and coalfield areas.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the proportion of children in each local authority who obtained *(a)* five or more A* to C GCSEs and *(b)* five or more A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics in each year between 1996 and 2008; and if he will make a statement. [225113]

Jim Knight: The available information on GCSE and equivalent results by local authority area is contained within table 18 of Statistical First Release (SFR) "GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised)" which was published in January 2008. This SFR can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml.

A time series for 1997 to 2007 showing the proportion of children in each local authority area who obtained five or more A* to C grades and those who obtained five or more A* to C grades including English and maths has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Figures cover all maintained mainstream schools (including CTCs and academies) and maintained special schools, but exclude hospital schools and pupil referral units.

Schools: Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils had a recorded unauthorised half-day absence while in year *(a)* nine, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 11 in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [224929]

Jim Knight: The first year for which information is available on absence rates by National Curriculum year group is 2005-06 and relates to secondary schools only. Data from primary and special schools are available from 2006-07.

The available information relates to the percentage of half days lost by type of absence and is shown in the tables:

State funded secondary schools[1, 2]: Pupil absence for national curriculum year groups 9,10 and 11, 2005-06, England

		State funded secondary schools Percentage of half days missed[4]		
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[3]	*Authorised absence*	*Unauthorised absence*	*Overall absence*
9	598,760	6.76	1.30	8.06
10	601,220	6.98	1.84	8.82
11	581,300	8	05	2.43

1 Includes middle schools as deemed.
2. Includes local authority maintained secondary school, city technology colleges and academies.
3. Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main registration). Excludes boarders.
4. The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
Source
School Census.

Primary, Secondary and special schools 1, 2, 3: Pupil absence for national curriculum year groups 9, 10, 11 2006-07: England

		Primary Schools[1] Percentage of half days missed[5]		
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[4]	*Authorised absence*	*Unauthorised absence*	*Overall absence*
9	10	3.90	0.89	4.80
10	20	2.69	0.59	3.29
11	20	2.95	0.51	3.46

	State funded secondary schools[1, 2]			
		Percentage of half days missed[5]		
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[4]	Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
9	579,140	6.29	1.37	7.66
10	598,630	6.49	1.98	8.47
11	588,340	7.61	2.59	10.19

	Special Schools[3]			
		Percentage of half days missed[5]		
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[4]	Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
9	9,710	8.84	2.75	11.59
10	10,340	9.14	3.46	12.60
11	10,110	10.13	4.62	14.75

1 Includes middle schools as deemed. Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
2. Includes local authority maintained secondary school, city technology colleges and academies.
3. Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
4. Pupil numbers are as at January 2007. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main registration). Excludes boarders.
5. The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
Note:
Total may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish each local authority's latest estimate of the GCSE results of each school in the National Challenge for *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and if he will make a statement. [224664]

Jim Knight: We have no plans to publish local authorities' (LA) estimates of GCSE results for National Challenge schools. The information was provided by LAs on a confidential basis to help us identify which schools are in need of greatest support.

We have held initial discussions with LAs to agree what level of support should be provided for each of their National Challenge schools. National Challenge advisers will work through the detail of this support with individual schools from November. Once plans are in place, every LA with a National Challenge school will publish a summary for parents and others.

Social Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children under 11 years of age live in families where there has been social services involvement during the child's lifetime. [225479]

Beverley Hughes: The most recent Children in Need (CIN) census showed that approximately 120,000 children aged less than 11 years received services from social care in England during a census week in February 2005. This equates to approximately 2 per cent. of all children aged less than 11 years in England.

The 2005 CIN census (and previous censuses) only provided a snapshot of activity during a typical week in February. It did not give an indication of the involvement of services during a child's lifetime nor did it account for some families having more than one child receiving services included in the census.

The CIN census has been redeveloped and will be collecting longitudinal information on the characteristics of and services provided to Children in Need. It is anticipated that the first data from the new census will be available in autumn 2009.

Trust Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools have applied to become trust schools; [224873]

(2) how many foundation schools have *(a)* become trust schools and *(b)* applied to become trust schools. [224870]

Ed Balls: Schools do not have to apply to the Department for Children, School and Families to become a trust or foundation school. A change of school category to foundation and the acquisition of a trust are 'prescribed alterations'. To make such a prescribed alteration, the governing body must publish statutory proposals in accordance with provisions set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Since 25 May 2007, proposals are decided by the governing body (or the schools adjudicator where proposals to acquire a trust have been referred by the local authority). There is no role for Ministers in the decision-making process.

To date, 106 schools (including 26 foundation schools) have acquired a trust under the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. In addition, 378 schools (including 53 foundation schools) are on the Trust and Foundation Schools Support programme where they have access to advice and guidance on the processes associated with acquiring a trust.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Breast Cancer

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [224787]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people have been diagnosed with breast cancer in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) England in each year since 1997 [224787]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2005. Numbers of cases of breast cancer for the years 1997 to 2005 for (a) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (b) South Tyneside County District, (c) the North East Government Office Region and (d) England are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1]: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, North East government office region and England, 1997-2005

Area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Jarrow	60	42	67	60	54	62	73	59	62
South Tyneside	103	94	105	119	102	104	133	118	120
North East	1,559	1,696	1,683	1,709	1,763	1,749	1,965	1,983	1,985
England	33,720	34,144	35,767	35,027	35,687	35,524	37,725	37,843	38,462

[1] Breast cancer is defined as code C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Cancer

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were diagnosed with cancer in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [224785]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people have been diagnosed with cancer in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) England in each year since 1997 [224785]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2005. Numbers of cases of cancer for the years 1997 to 2005 for (a) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (b) South Tyneside County District, (c) the North East Government Office Region and (d) England are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer[1]: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, North East government office region and England, 1997-2005

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Jarrow	455	440	465	453	444	469	455	445	468
South Tyneside	810	838	857	888	824	860	871	882	859
North East	12,366	12,912	13,082	13,104	13,455	13,603	13,683	13,501	13,305
England	222,206	222,248	229,217	229,270	232,409	229,908	233,959	238,333	238,977

[1] All cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, defined as codes C00-C97 excluding C44 in the International Classification of Disease, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Childbirth

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in which years since 1979 the number of births in England exceeded the number recorded for 2007. [225890]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding in which years since 1979 the number of births in England exceeded the number for 2007. (225890)

In 2007 there were 655,357 live births to mothers usually resident in England. Since 1979 there have been two calendar years with a larger number of births: 1990 and 1991 (with 666,920 and 660,806 live births respectively to mothers usually resident in England).

Death: Colorectal Cancer

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women died of bowel cancer in each calendar year since 1997, broken down (i) by Government region and (ii) by those aged (A) under 30, (B) 30 to 40, (C) 41 to 50 and (D) 51 to 60 years. [225705]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) men and (b) women died of bowel cancer in each calendar year since 1997, broken down (i) by Government region and (ii) by those aged (A) under 30, (B) 30 to 40, (C) 41 to 50 and (D) 51 to 60 years. (225705)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths where bowel cancer was the underlying cause of death in each government office region, for males and females aged (a) under 30, (b) 30 to 40, (c) 41 to 50 and (9) 51 to 60 years, from 1997 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths where bowel cancer was the underlying cause of death,[1] males and females, government office region and age group, 1997-2007[2,3]

Area	Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Deaths (males)												
North East	<30	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	30-40	0	3	3	3	3	1	3	4	3	1	3
	41-50	13	14	11	18	14	13	12	9	13	12	13
	51-60	57	54	53	57	68	51	50	44	48	35	48
North West	<30	0	2	1	2	0	0	1	3	3	1	1
	30-40	7	3	4	7	3	7	12	6	7	10	5
	41-50	52	34	32	35	27	37	24	21	32	28	38
	51-60	133	122	124	115	134	119	132	119	124	111	103
Yorkshire and the Humber	<30	4	2	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	4
	30-40	6	5	5	4	2	6	7	6	1	6	2
	41-50	27	28	22	20	28	21	18	20	23	27	18
	51-60	95	86	83	89	70	88	89	81	83	84	83
East Midlands	<30	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	2	1
	30-40	6	4	7	4	4	7	4	4	5	6	7
	41-50	16	19	18	17	20	15	25	16	18	19	17
	51-60	63	73	68	70	63	76	70	60	60	65	72
West Midlands	<30	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	0
	30-40	6	5	7	5	6	5	1	9	6	7	6
	41-50	27	31	15	21	24	27	23	26	22	23	18
	51-60	101	109	88	97	91	82	100	108	83	85	91
East of England	<30	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	2
	30-40	5	5	2	1	2	6	9	6	2	8	3
	41-50	24	21	19	19	21	19	18	23	28	22	23
	51-60	85	81	85	82	78	98	77	75	87	76	78
London	<30	4	0	1	4	2	3	2	2	5	5	4
	30-40	6	5	8	10	9	9	7	13	5	7	8
	41-50	25	42	18	23	22	26	22	30	17	30	26
	51-60	78	95	88	83	84	81	106	87	94	81	88
South East	<30	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	4	2	4
	30-40	12	7	8	8	14	12	7	6	5	4	14
	41-50	48	41	39	34	41	21	25	28	26	29	39
	51-60	117	119	114	100	145	124	123	109	109	144	110
South West	<30	0	1	3	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	3
	30-40	3	7	3	3	4	8	7	2	3	5	5
	41-50	21	13	24	25	22	27	21	20	22	16	21
	51-60	77	83	73	66	77	97	72	83	77	70	73
England total	<30	11	10	12	13	5	7	10	8	16	18	19
	30-40	51	44	47	45	47	61	57	56	37	54	53
	41-50	253	243	198	212	219	206	188	193	201	206	213
	51-60	806	822	776	759	810	816	819	766	765	751	746
Deaths (females)												
North East	<30	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0

Table 1. Number of deaths where bowel cancer was the underlying cause of death,[1] males and females, government office region and age group, 1997-2007[2,3]

Area	Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	30-40	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	2	0	3	2
	41-50	14	10	12	18	7	8	8	10	8	9	14
	51-60	33	32	23	31	26	24	29	27	22	24	21
North West	<30	0	2	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
	30-40	10	2	10	10	7	9	4	9	7	3	7
	41-50	29	28	26	29	29	17	23	20	24	25	30
	51-60	74	84	85	88	68	65	58	69	79	78	77
Yorkshire and the Humber	<30	1	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	2	0	1
	30-40	6	5	4	4	3	2	7	7	3	7	5
	41-50	25	13	18	18	17	17	10	12	11	17	16
	51-60	64	45	42	54	44	43	53	50	52	49	53
East Midlands	<30	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	1
	30-40	2	4	4	7	7	2	5	1	1	1	2
	41-50	14	18	10	11	14	13	22	16	20	17	15
	51-60	41	50	51	42	40	48	50	37	36	44	42
West Midlands	<30	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
	30-40	3	4	6	4	4	3	8	6	8	6	5
	41-50	19	22	28	21	9	20	16	21	23	16	19
	51-60	73	70	75	46	72	60	59	63	48	44	53
East of England	<30	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2
	30-40	4	1	5	7	5	4	2	2	4	4	3
	41-50	25	22	20	13	20	21	18	20	20	17	21
	51-60	53	64	54	61	56	59	79	70	69	51	45
London	<30	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	2	1	3	4
	30-40	7	13	12	8	8	13	10	14	10	8	5
	41-50	17	21	20	20	23	14	23	17	24	21	26
	51-60	66	58	47	68	58	54	61	60	55	65	69
South East	<30	0	2	3	2	1	1	3	2	3	3	6
	30-40	7	9	4	7	6	8	1	10	8	11	5
	41-50	32	32	28	25	28	23	21	28	20	39	34
	51-60	81	84	79	73	80	81	89	75	81	77	91
South West	<30	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1
	30-40	0	2	4	5	2	4	0	0	3	3	2
	41-50	15	13	23	10	12	18	13	9	17	19	18
	51-60	37	47	52	45	48	56	55	46	47	61	55
England total	<30	6	6	10	11	9	2	10	9	9	13	19
	30-40	40	41	50	55	45	48	38	51	44	46	36
	41-50	190	179	185	165	159	151	154	153	167	180	193
	51-60	522	534	508	508	492	490	533	497	489	493	506

[1] Cause of death for bowel cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 153-154 for 1997 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C18-C21 for 2001 to 2007. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Non-profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Social Enterprise Action Plan across Government. [225024]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) continuously monitors delivery and effectiveness of the Social Enterprise Action Plan both through OTS internal channels and through a project board which has representation from across Government and the sector.

"Social Enterprise Action Plan", an evaluation of the first year of the social enterprise action plan was published in November 2007. This report is available from the following website and copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/~/media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/social_enterprise_action_plan_one_year_on%20pdf.ashx

OTS intends to publish a similar document highlighting progress on the implementation of the Social Enterprise Action Plan—two years on—by the end of this year.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on social enterprise. [225025]

Kevin Brennan: I intend to meet with Treasury ministerial colleagues regularly to discuss a range of issues which impact on social enterprise and the third sector more generally.

The Office of the Third Sector is working closely with HM Treasury on the delivery of commitments in the Third Sector Review and Social Enterprise Action Plan; on co-operatives; and on social investment.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the community investment tax relief scheme in respect of social enterprise activities. [225026]

Kevin Brennan: No formal assessment of the effectiveness of the Community Investment Tax Relief (CITR) scheme has been made. The aim of the CITR scheme is to incentivise private investment from individuals and companies in financially excluded small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), within or serving disadvantaged communities. £47 million has been invested in Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs) through CITR.

Research by the Community Development Finance Association suggests that about half the loans (by value) made by CDFIs are to social enterprises. In practice, however, some CDFIs such as Big Issue Invest or the Social Enterprise Loan Fund only lend to social enterprises.

The recent operational review of CITR, announced in the Government's Social Enterprise Action Plan, indicated that with most of the more active CDFIs engaged in financing only charitable or social enterprises, CITR has contributed to an improvement in the financing provision for social enterprises.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the outcome of the cross-departmental third sector public services action plan has been in respect of social enterprise. [225027]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) monitors delivery and effectiveness of the Public Services Action Plan continuously both through OTS internal channels and through a steering group which has representation from across government and the third sector (of which social enterprise is an integral part). Key outcomes so far include: a national programme of training and professional development for public sector commissioners, in which social enterprise ambassadors have been closely involved; support for innovation through the Innovation Exchange; investing in capital development through Futurebuilders; and improving the sustainability of the sector by making three-year funding the norm rather than the exception, including for social enterprises.

"Partnership in Public Services: The Public Services Action Plan", an evaluation of the first year of the public services action plan was published in December 2007. This report is available on the OTS website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/~/media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/psap_one_year_on_web_final_2%20pdf.ashx

and copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House. OTS intends to publish a similar document highlighting our successes on the implementation of the Public Services Action Plan by the end of this year.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what deficiencies he has identified in *(a)* regional, *(b)* sub-regional, *(c)* local and *(d)* sectoral social enterprise networks; and what steps he (i) has taken and (ii) plans to take to address such deficiencies. [225028]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector commissioned research into social enterprise networks from Rocket Science UK. The resulting "Review of Social Enterprise Networks" is on the following Cabinet Office website and copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/080328_social_enterprise.aspx

The report identifies national, regional, sub-regional and local networks and makes recommendations on how gaps might be addressed. In response, we are investing £6 million during 2008-11, through Capacitybuilders, to develop the capacity of social enterprise infrastructure organisations.

Capacitybuilders is working with social enterprise networks in each region and other local partners to identify the best ways to meet local needs.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how the £10 million social co-investment risk capital fund for social enterprise is to be used; and what Government funding sources are available for social enterprise start-ups. [225029]

Kevin Brennan: The £10 million risk capital fund will be used to invest in social enterprises, matched by co-investors. This will demonstrate the viability of investment in social enterprises; improve access to equity

funding for new and growing social enterprises; demonstrate that there are meaningful numbers of investors interested in making commercial investment in the area of social enterprise; and develop equity funding instruments that can be used when making investments into social enterprises.

Wider government support for social enterprise start-ups includes the Department for Health's Social Enterprise Investment Fund. Other funding and finance available to social enterprises includes the Futurebuilders Fund, the Adventure Capital Fund, the forthcoming Communitybuilders fund and UnLtd—the foundation for social entrepreneurs. Each of these organisations aim to address a particular niche in the diversity of demand for finance among social enterprise.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which *(a)* regions and *(b)* council areas have the (i) highest and (ii) lowest number of registered social enterprises; and if he will make a statement. [225030]

Kevin Brennan: Social enterprises are not defined by particular legal forms. Rather, they are defined by their nature: their social/environmental aims and outcomes; the basis on which their social mission is embedded in their structure and governance; and the way they use the profits they generate through trading. Social enterprises are not, therefore, required to register with any one body. Information on the number of registered social enterprises in any particular area is consequently not available.

Shareholders

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his latest estimate is of the number of individuals in the UK who own shares. [225371]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the latest estimate is of the number of individuals in the UK who own shares (225371).

According to a survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics in 2006/07, 12% of people aged 16 or over in Great Britain held shares other than employee shares or share options and 5% held employee shares or share options. Applying these percentages to the mid-2006 population estimates suggests that 5.7 million people held shares other than employee shares or share options and 2.4 million people held employee shares or share options. These figures should not be added together to estimate the total number of people in Great Britain owning shares, as some individuals may own both types of share. The estimates do not include any indirect investment in shares through for example ISAs, unit trusts or pension funds.

The proportions of individuals holding shares are based on data collected from the Household Assets Survey, which is a new longitudinal survey that collects information about the economic well being of households and individuals in Great Britain. The proportions were among statistics published in the interim report in January 2008, based on half the Wave 1 sample (16,000 households) and labelled as experimental statistics. Experimental statistics are in the testing phase arid not fully developed as they do not yet meet the rigorous quality standards of National Statistics.

Unemployment: Lincolnshire

Mr. Morley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of children in North Lincolnshire live in households where neither parent is in employment. [224948]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what percentage of children in North Lincolnshire live in households where neither parent is in employment. (224948)

Using the Annual Population Survey (APS) household dataset for the period January to December 2007, 14.7 per cent of children in North Lincolnshire lived in a workless household, which is a household where at least one person is of working age and no adults in the household are employed.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. This estimate is such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible it will lie within the range 9.3 per cent to 20.2 per cent.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221342]

Mr. Woodward: In 2007-08 the Northern Ireland Office held the following listening exercises and public forums:

2007-08

Number organised	*Purpose*	*Private contractor*	*Cost*
Listening Exercises			
4	To consult with older people on the "Government's Proposals for the Safety of Older People."	Age Concern and Help the Aged	£1,828.37 for all 4 events
Public Forums			
5[1]	Promote awareness of the consultation paper "Hidden Crime, Secret Pain" and outline key issues and strategic objectives to also coincide with the public consultation on developing proposals for a Regional Strategy on Addressing Sexual Violence in Northern Ireland.	None	n/a

2007-08

Number organised	*Purpose*	*Private contractor*	*Cost*
2[2]	To consult with various groups and the general public on the NIO Disability Action Plan.	None	n/a

[1] Organised jointly between the NIO and Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.
[2] One event was organised jointly between the NIO and Criminal Justice Agencies. The other event was organised jointly between the NIO and Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments.

2006-07

There were no listening exercises or public forums.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 13 October 2008

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether abortion policy would be devolved in the event of the devolution of policing and criminal justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly; and if he will make a statement. [226577]

Mr. Woodward: In Northern Ireland, legislation on abortion remains part of the criminal law, which will be transferred when responsibility for policing and justice is devolved.

Eames/Bradley Consultative Group

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment has been made of any potential overlap of work between the Eames/Bradley Consultative Group and the Victims Commissioners. [224743]

Mr. Woodward: The Consultative Group on the Past terms of reference explicitly require the group to consider "the landscape of initiatives that have already been taken by Government and non-governmental groups" and the "work already done—and ongoing—in this area".

It is for the group to interpret its terms of reference, but I would expect that in looking at the legacy of the past in its broadest sense the group will be considering issues relating to victims and survivors along with many other areas; I would also expect that the group will take into account the work being done by the Commission for Victims and Survivors. I look forward to receiving the group's report in the coming months.

When considering the group's report and recommendations, the Government will take into account any impact on, and overlap with, ongoing programmes of work, such as that of the Commission for Victims and Survivors.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221834]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has no contract with EDF.

EDF supplies power to a number of residential properties in London leased by the Northern Ireland Office for staff on detached duty. These contracts would have been set up directly between the staff residing in the accommodation and EDF. Ascertaining payments for the properties over the 10 years would be at disproportionate cost.

Parades

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions have taken place with the Irish Government on the Strategic Review of Parades. [224742]

Paul Goggins: The Strategic Review of Parading Body met the Irish Government in December 2007 and in March and April 2008. Officials provided the Irish Government with updates on the progress of the Strategic Review of Parading in March and August 2008.

Police Patrolling

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average time spent by a police officer on street patrol was in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [224691]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the *Official Report* and the Library of the House.

Police: Complaints

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints were made against the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [224692]

Paul Goggins: Dealing with such complaints is the operational responsibility of the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. I have asked the chief executive to reply to the hon. Member directly, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the *Official Report* and the Library of the House.

Police: Finance

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what revisions have been made to arrangements for the Police Service of Northern Ireland's budget; and if he will make a statement. [224599]

Paul Goggins: In the comprehensive spending review 2007 settlement, the PSNI were allocated a fixed allocation of some £3.5 billion over a three-year period (2008 to 2011).

Budget decisions within the funding allocation are a matter for the PSNI and the Policing Board, based on aligning operational priorities with resources.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received calling for revisions to the Police Service of Northern Ireland budget arrangements. [224741]

Paul Goggins: In the comprehensive spending review 2007 settlement, the PSNI were allocated a fixed allocation of some £3.5 billion over a three-year period (2008-11).

The PSNI through the Northern Ireland Policing Board has the opportunity to notify the NIO of any proposed revisions to the budget allocation at in-year monitoring rounds. Any funding requests will be considered by the NIO taking into consideration financial commitments throughout the Department.

Prisoners

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners in Northern Ireland remain in custody having completed their sentence; and what the reason for such post-sentence detention is in each case. [224694]

Paul Goggins: At 8 October, 90 male prisoners and one female prisoner who had completed a custodial sentence remained in custody due to outstanding remand charges. In addition, three immigration detainees who had completed custodial sentences were being held under immigration detention orders.

Prisoners: Crimes of Violence

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many violent offences were committed by prisoners against other prisoners in Northern Ireland whilst in custody in each of the last five years. [224690]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Financial year	*Assault of prisoner on prisoner*
2004-05	11
2005-06	5
2006-07	7
2007-08	14
2008-end September 2008	5
Total	42

These figures are compiled using the Northern Ireland Prison Service key performance indicators definition of assault.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Library

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what income his Department received from the British Library in each of the last 10 years. [225286]

Barbara Follett: In each of the last 10 years my Department has received the following rental income from the British Library.

£

	Retained by DCMS	*Surrendered to the Consolidated Fund*
1998-99	0	590,000
1999-2000	0	645,000
2000-01	0	42,000
2001-02	0	0
2002-03	0	0
2003-04	0	0
2004-05	0	0
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	0	0

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211770]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department holds the following information relating to the purchase of chairs, desk and other office furnishings in the last five years. The Department does not hold information for 2003-04.

£

		2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Chairs	Number	—	20	60	346	156
	Cost	—	9,035	27,105	92,742	34,260
Desks	Number	—	—	—	521	34
	Cost	—	—	—	367,026	30,373
Tables	Number	—	—	—	97	42
	Cost	—	—	—	22,488	16,021
Filing Cabinets	Number	—	—	—	263	6
	Cost	—	—	—	84,232	2,256
Other office furnishings	Number	—	—	—	18	3
	Cost	—	—		3,786	795

The Royal Parks (TRP) accounting system does not record the numbers of chairs, desks etc that have been purchased, so obtaining that information would involve retrieving and analysing paper copies of orders and invoices over five years, at disproportionate cost.

The following table sets out how much TRP has spent on these items over the past five financial years:

£

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Chairs	7,071	1,094	2,321	2,849	15,996
Tables	2,261	873	1,730	376	2,537
Other office furnishings	19,184	6,520	2,577	3,736	21,898

Departmental Land

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what valuations were made of the land to the north of the British Library in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08. [224767]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The land to the north of the British Library was professionally valued on 31 March 2005 at £18.98 million and on 31 March 2006 at £26.6 million. At 31 March 2008 the land was being held for resale at a revaluation of £85 million. The sale was completed on 13 June 2008.

Departmental NDPBs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 51-52WS, on DCMS engagement, what changes are planned to the regional structures of *(a)* the Arts Council, *(b)* Sports England, *(c)* English Heritage and *(d)* Museum, Libraries and Archives Councils. [223004]

Barbara Follett: The right hon. Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge), explained in a written ministerial statement of 2 July 2008 that the precise nature of the new arrangements in each region will be negotiated regionally by the directors of the four key public bodies. She asked the four chief executives to present as soon as possible their proposals for how the new arrangements for culture will work in the regions following the wind up of the regional cultural consortiums on 31 March 2009.

My Department is committed to continuous improvement in delivery of public services to citizens and to providing value for money to taxpayers. To this end our NDPBs review their structures from time to time and as a result of such reviews, the following changes are proposed or being taken forward:

Sport England is proposing to replace Regional Sports Boards with a ministerial nominee in each of their 9 regions. The Nominee will act as an advocate for community sport. A decision on the London Regional Sports Board will be made following discussions with the Mayor.

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is reconfiguring as a single national agency with its head office functions in Birmingham. The unified MLA will then have the capacity to deploy up to 30 staff nationwide in flexible regional action teams.

Arts Council of England, as part of the review of support services, will move 60 staff from the London National Office to the North West Regional Office.

Gambling Act 2005

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department completed the exercise measuring the cost of the Gambling Act 2005 as set out in the departmental Corporate Plan; what the estimated costs of the Act have been; and when he expects to publish the report in full. [224768]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department completed in June 2008 an administrative burdens measurement exercise of the Gambling Act 2005. This was carried out by using the better regulation executive's standard cost model method of assessment and by identifying each individual information obligation arising from the 2005 Act. The validity of the findings were tested by an expert panel, which included industry stakeholders, who challenged the assumptions, methodologies, outcomes of the assessment made by the Department and the Gambling Commission.

The work by the expert panel resulted in an agreed annual administrative burden of the 2005 Act of £17.4 million compared with an annual measurement of £74 million under the previous regulatory regime. Further details of the measurement exercise will be set out in the DCMS simplification plan 2008 to be published in December.

Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff he expects to work in the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting's private office; and where the office will be located. [226000]

Andy Burnham: The Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting will be supported by three members of staff in his private office, which will be co-located between the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the working week he expects the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting to spend on his Department's business. [226001]

Andy Burnham: I expect the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (joint Minister with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) to spend approximately 50 per cent. of his working week on departmental business.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting has been assigned an office in his Department. [226002]

Andy Burnham: The Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting has been assigned an office at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department will provide to the Olympic Delivery Authority in each of the next three years. [225676]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

Chapter 20 of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) White Paper, published on 9 October 2007, announced total grant in aid from Government of £1,559/£1,104/£1,050 million in 2008-09 to 2010-11. Provision for 2011-12 to 2013-14 will be confirmed in the next CSR.

The balance of the funding requirement will be met, as announced in March 2007, by contributions from the Mayor of London (GLA and LDA); and from the lottery.

Olympic Games 2012: Standards

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date he expects to publish the first full report on Olympic and Paralympic public service agreements and physical education and school sport. [225692]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

Progress made against the PSA 22 indicators will be published in the autumn performance report published by DCMS. The report will be published no later than 15 December.

World Heritage Sites

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish guidelines for applicants for World Heritage status. [224832]

Barbara Follett: The Government will publish a consultation document on its UK World Heritage Review shortly. Should we decide, following the outcome of the Review, to revise the current UK Tentative List, appropriate guidelines on applications for inclusion on the List will be made available.

OLYMPICS

Humanitarian Assistance Unit: Marketing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much the humanitarian assistance unit spent on publicity in each year since its establishment. [225462]

Tessa Jowell: The Humanitarian Assistance Unit has not spent anything on publicity since it was set up in 2005.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many press and communications officers are employed by the Olympic Delivery Authority. [224857]

Tessa Jowell: As of 30 September 2008 the ODA communications team employed 25 members of staff—five of which are specifically dedicated to dealing with the press.

The ODA communications team are responsible for a variety of communication and stakeholder engagement activities. These include dealing with local and national media, as well as public inquiries and community engagement, site visits, extensive stakeholder engagement, internal communications and ODA's external publications.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what date she expects the construction of the Aquatics Centre for the London 2012 Olympics to begin. [225464]

Tessa Jowell: Construction of the foundations for the Aquatics Centre began in July 2008, two months ahead of schedule.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the Government's contingency budget for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games is; and how much of that has been *(a)* spent and *(b)* allocated. [224706]

Tessa Jowell: The £9.325 billion funding package for the games announced in March 2007 included a provision for contingency of £2.747 billion. As announced, £500 million of this was transferred to the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) baseline funding, and £238 million was set aside as a contingency for wider policing and security. This left a balance of £2,009 million: £968 million of which is programme-wide contingency for ODA programme-wide risks, and £1,041 million of which is Funders' Group contingency for risks beyond the project and programme level.

To date £21.5 million of ODA programme-wide contingency has been allocated to cover the net contingency requirements of a number of programmes. In addition £95 million of Funder's Group contingency has been allocated to the ODA as interim funding to enable work on the construction of the Olympic village to continue uninterrupted despite the current turmoil in the financial markets.

There is no direct spending from contingency, because once allocated it is incorporated into the ODA's programme expenditure. It is therefore only possible to provide information on the contingency allocated to the ODA and on ODA actual spend. Information on allocated contingency and actual spend are provided in the six-monthly progress updates. The next progress update will be published in the new year.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Solicitor-General how many letters her Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174942]

The Solicitor-General: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. These reports are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Solicitor-General how many staff work in her Office's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* parliamentary questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174950]

The Solicitor-General: There is one person that deals with all my parliamentary business and there are three people in the correspondence team that deal with all correspondence from Members and Peers.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Solicitor-General how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day she has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226886]

The Solicitor-General: 11 (73 per cent.) of the written for named day questions have been answered on the due date in the current session.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Solicitor-General how many and what proportion of staff in the Attorney-General's Office are disabled; and what the average salary in the Office is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [220180]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 652W.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Solicitor-General what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by the Attorney-General's Office has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced powers of entry since May 1997. [222346]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change and Energy Strategy Board

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what work the Climate Change and Energy Strategy Board has undertaken; what further work is planned; and if he will make a statement. [225366]

Joan Ruddock: The senior board which oversees the climate change and energy programme across Government is the Delivery and Strategy High Level Board (DASH Board). The board is made up of senior officials from all the contributing Departments (DECC, BERR, DEFRA, Cabinet Office, CLG, DfID, DfT, FCO and HMT) and is co-chaired by the heads of DECC's Climate Change Group (formerly in DEFRA) and the Energy Group (formerly in BERR). The board puts advice to the ED(EE) Cabinet Committee, and is also the Delivery Board for the Climate Change Public Service Agreement (PSA 27).

The board meets at least every six weeks, and takes regular reports from the programme boards which cover the three aspects of the overall programme: international energy and climate change; national energy and climate change mitigation; national climate change adaptation. The board considers reports on progress from the programme boards, decides on any action to put progress on track and seeks to identify the key strategic issues and risks to the programme that need to be addressed.

Warm Front Scheme

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints he has received from *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* others in relation to the management of the Warm Front 2 scheme; and what the subject of each complaint was. [224262]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Complaints received by the Secretary of State are not classified and recorded in the way requested. However, Eaga plc, who manage the scheme on DECC's behalf, do record and classify all complaints received about Warm Front, for which the Secretary of State is ultimately responsible.

Between 1 June 2005 (start of Warm Front 2) and 31 August 2008, there was a total of 3,508 upheld complaints in relation to the Warm Front Scheme, made by a variety of bodies. Over the same period, there were 834,269 successful applications to the scheme, giving a percentage of upheld complaints against successful applications of 0.42 per cent.

Warm Front does not specifically record the numbers of complaints received from local authorities. However, the following table shows the breakdown of upheld complaints received by source since the start of Warm Front 2[1]. Local authority complaints are recorded in the stakeholder category.

[1] The total figure in the table comes to 3,506 rather than 3,508, as two complaints received that related to the HEES Scheme in Wales have been removed.

Source	*Number of upheld complaints*
Complaint from customer	2,780
MP complaint	363
Stakeholder	121
Trading Standards	92
Complaint via DEFRA	79
Media	63
Installer Direct Complaint	6
Heating Rebate Scheme	2

In February 2008 the aspects against which complaints were logged changed, so the data provided in this respect relate to all complaints upheld since 5 February 2008.

Aspect	*Number of complaints upheld*
Boiler/system problem	160
Home or property damaged	144
Heating	66
Remedial works required	84
Measures: Not all installed or as agreed	53
Mess/debris left in property	46
No heat and/or no hot water	36
Response time and missed appointments	33
Leaks	32

Aspect	*Number of complaints upheld*
Personnel manner and explanations	31
Miscellaneous	30
Allocation of measure	14
Needs not considered	14
Exceeded Grant maxima	10
Location not suitable	9
Complaint follow up	9
Technical problems with installation	8
Inspection	6
Field Services Energy Assessment	5
Private works	5
Breakdown attendance	4
Cannot have preferred system type	4
Powerflush not completed	4

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage business growth. [219552]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* Encouraging business growth is a key aim of the Department, and "Enterprise: Unlocking the UK's Talent" (available at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44992.pdf), published in March 2008, announced a number of new measures designed to support business growth. For example the Government are:

encouraging women's enterprise, an area where the UK is lagging behind major competitors, through initiatives such as women's business centre pilots;

improving access to finance to support business growth such as extending eligibility to the Small Firms Loan Guarantee;

encouraging innovation, a key driver of growth, through initiatives such as the launch of innovation vouchers.

The Manufacturing Strategy, published on 8 September 2008, builds on the Enterprise Strategy with additional measures to promote growth in this sector.

Although the global outlook is uncertain, through maintaining a stable macroeconomic environment, the Government have created an environment conducive to businesses growth, and contributed to a thriving business sector:

The UK has a record number of businesses—4.7 million at the start of 2007—around 970,000 (26 per cent.) more than in 1997;

Private sector employment has risen by 1.7 million (8 per cent.) since 1997;

Business survival rates are higher than a decade ago—92 per cent. of VAT registered firms still registered after one year; 71 per cent. after three years.

The UK is the only G7 economy to have avoided any quarters of contraction in output since 2001, in spite of slow growth in key export markets in the recent past; and over the past 10 years the UK has enjoyed more stability in terms of GDP growth and inflation than in any decade since the war.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting has been assigned an office in his Department. [225917]

Mr. McFadden: Yes.

Gyms

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many gymnasiums operated for the use of staff members his Department funds. [225048]

Mr. Thomas: BERR's gymnasium is funded by Minerva, the in-house sports and social association, from membership subscriptions not and from the departmental budget.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members' Staff: Pay

Lynne Jones: To ask the Leader of the House (1) if she will examine the financial implications of extending the House of Commons staff redundancy arrangements to staff of hon. Members; [225976]

(2) if she will examine the financial and administrative implications of automatically increasing the pay of staff of hon. Members annually by the rise in staffing allowance. [225977]

Chris Bryant: Under the House of Commons (Administration) Act 1978, House staff are employed by the House of Commons Commission. The Act requires the Commission to keep staff conditions of service broadly in the line with those in the Home Civil Service. This requirement applies to redundancy arrangements. The Members Estimate Committee report, Review of Allowances (HC578), considered the central employment of Members' staff by the House but rejected this in favour of Members themselves remaining the employer.

Members' staff are employed by Members, under standard contracts prepared by the Department of Resources. The contract requires the Member to review annually his or her employee's salary. Members can then decide whether an increase is appropriate, which could depend on factors such as staff performance and budget constraints. Automatic pay rises would restrict Members' ability to match the needs of their office to the resources available.

Parliamentary Resources Unit

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House how much has been paid to the Parliamentary Resources Unit through the Department of Resources and its predecessors in each year since 1997. [224836]

Chris Bryant: The amount paid to the PRU for each year since 2003-04 is as follows:

	£
2003-04	183,879
2004-05	397,867
2005-06	637,421
2006-07	536,142
2007-08	598,067

Information is not readily available for prior years.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on salaries for press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its NDPBs and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [224549]

Ann McKechin: The figures are as follows and include ERNIC etc; the Office had a reduced number of press officers for part of 2006-07 and assistance was provided by staff of the Government News Network.

	£
2005-06	93,114
2006-07	70,283
2007-08	113,236

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of staff in his Department are disabled; and what the average salary in his Department is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff. [220175]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 651W.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he will reply to Question 220175, on staff, tabled on 15th July. [226924]

Ann McKechin: This parliamentary question was answered today.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Secondary Schools: Closure

8. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the process is for consultation over closure of secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [225785]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Consultation is the first part of the five stage statutory process for proposed changes to school provision, including closures. The later stages are publication of proposals; a period for representations; decision and implementation, if approved.

Proposals are decided under local decision making arrangements. Ministers have no direct role in the process. However, proposers are required to consult with interested parties and take into account their views when reaching a decision on whether to progress with proposals.

Educational Standards: Secondary Schools

9. **Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to raise educational standards in secondary schools. [225786]

Ed Balls: Secondary schools standards have risen substantially over the past decade with the number of schools not reaching our basic benchmark of 30 per cent. Five A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths down from over 1,600 in 1997 to a provisional 475 in 2008.

Our National Challenge programme will ensure that by 2011 every school will have at least 30 per cent. of its pupils over the basic benchmark and today I have written to all National Challenge heads updating them on our progress with our plans.

Academy Programme

10. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the prospects for the academies programme over the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [225787]

Jim Knight: The prospects for the academies programme are secure. In addition to the 130 academies now open, four are projected to open in January 2009, 80 in September 2009 and a further 100 in 2010. The Government are committed to establishing at least 400 academies nationwide.

Trust Schools

11. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in the development of trust schools; and if he will make a statement. [225788]

Ed Balls: 106 schools have already become trust schools, the large majority of them in collaborative trusts with other schools. And last month I announced that a further 65 schools have successfully applied to enter the trust schools programme. This brings the total number of schools seeking to apply trust status to 378, including three national challenge trusts. I expect a further round of application from schools at the end of November 2008.

Sure Start

12. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress the Sure Start programme has made; and if he will make a statement. [225789]

Beverley Hughes: We exceeded the 2008 target, with over 2,900 children's centres offering services to almost 2.3 million children under five and their families. By 2010 there will be a centre for every community. The most recent wave of the National Evaluation of Sure Start found that Sure Start Local Programmes have had a positive impact on a number of outcomes. The report showed a marked improvement on the findings of the earlier study published in 2005.

New Schools: Costs

13. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average cost of establishing a new school is. [225790]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: For the strategic centrally managed BSF programme the average capital cost of a new secondary school was £26 million. This average does however mask big variations across projects owing to the size and type of school, local cost pressures, site constraints and other abnormal factors.

The Department does not hold capital cost information on new primary and secondary schools delivered by local authorities through their devolved capital programmes, nor on authorities' revenue expenditure on establishing new schools.

Adoption

14. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on the Government's plans to encourage adoption; and if he will make a statement. [225791]

Beverley Hughes: Since the Prime Minister's review of adoption in 2000, the Government have introduced new legislation—the Adoption and Children Act 2002—which represents a complete overhaul of the adoption system in England and Wales; new statutory guidance; new practice guidance and a range of other linked initiatives to modernise and reform adoption practice. In addition, we have commissioned the Adoption Research Initiative specifically to examine the impact of the Act.

21. **Mr. Timpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to encourage adoption; and if he will make a statement. [225798]

Beverley Hughes: Through the implementation of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 we have already overhauled the adoption system in England and Wales. We will next year issue strengthened care planning guidance to ensure that each child has a thorough assessment of their needs and circumstances leading to the right permanence plan. We will also disseminate good practice and the findings from the Adoption Research Initiative to ensure that adoption continues to be seen as an important option for those children who need it.

Special Needs Pupils

15. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps have been taken to integrate special needs pupils into mainstream education; and if he will make a statement. [225792]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The present statutory framework provides for children with statements of special educational needs to be taught in mainstream schools where this is what their parents want and is compatible with the efficient education of other children. It also provides for parents to seek a special school place and to have this preference considered. We published guidance last year which encourages local authorities to have a range of provision for children with SEN and disabilities.

Education Maintenance Allowances

16. **Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average time to process an education maintenance allowance application is; and if he will make a statement. [225793]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have informed me that due to problems with their automatic system, their contractor have had to resort to manual processing of EMA applications. As a consequence it is taking longer than in previous years to process EMA applications. It is not yet possible to give an average time to process applications under these revised arrangements.

I know that some students are still waiting for their allowances, and we have asked colleges to use their discretionary support funds for learners who may need financial help in the meantime. No learners should lose out as a consequence of the current delays.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

18. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made of the review of child and adolescent mental health services; and if he will make a statement. [225795]

Beverley Hughes: The independent review of CAMHs is progressing extremely well. A comprehensive programme of research, visits and consultation events has been completed, and an interim report published in July 2008. The Secretary of State for Health and I recently met the review's expert group to discuss the emerging findings with them. As the independent chair, Jo Davidson, is planning to publish the final report in November, it would be pre-emptive to make a statement at this point.

Sex and Relationship Education

19. **Emily Thornberry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the review of the provision of sex and relationship education in schools to report. [225796]

Jim Knight: The sex and relationships education (SRE) review steering group has had its final meeting and is in the process of finalising its report, which it intends to publish shortly.

School Meals

22. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase the percentage of school children who have a cooked school lunch; and if he will make a statement. [225799]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children Schools and Families and the School Food Trust have a wide programme to increase take-up of cooked school lunches, including:

£240 million subsidy to help keep down prices;

£150 million capital for new kitchens and dining rooms;

support for local authorities where take-up is stuck or declining;

training for catering staff;

School Food Trust promoting what works in increasing take-up; and

encouraging take-up of free school meals, including piloting universal free meals for primary pupils.

Secondary School Funding (Rural Areas)

23. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much and what proportion of secondary school funding was allocated to rural areas in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [225800]

Jim Knight: Secondary school funding is not identified nationally as separate from primary school funding. DCSF distributes revenue funding for schools to local authorities (LAs) through the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Each LA decides the distribution of core funding to individual schools, according to their local funding formula, which will have been agreed with the schools forum and designed to reflect local need. It is for local discretion how much of that authorities spend on the increased costs associated with rural schools and some authorities have specific protection for small rural schools within their local formulae.

Sandhill View School: Sunderland, South

25. **Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will visit Sandhill View School in Sunderland, South constituency to discuss its standards. [225802]

Ed Balls: I understand that Sandhill View school has made excellent progress in the proportion of students gaining five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics, and I congratulate the school's staff and students on their success in the past year and wish them well for this academic year. I hope that my diary will permit me to visit the school when I am next in the area.

Building Schools for the Future

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [225784]

Jim Knight: Our assessment has two main strands. First, PricewaterhouseCoopers is evaluating the impact of Building Schools for the Future investment on pupil achievement. We aim to publish the second annual report of that evaluation later this year. Secondly, schools capital including Building Schools for the Future is one of three strands of a Public Value Programme review that we are conducting with HM Treasury. We expect to finish that review this winter.

Bullying

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to tackle bullying of children with special needs in schools. [225794]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We published guidance in May 2008 which reminds schools of their legal obligations in respect of children with special educational needs and disabilities. The guidance provides comprehensive advice on how to prevent the bullying of these children, and how to respond to bullying incidents. We are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies to ensure the guidance is effectively implemented on the ground, and to provide challenge and support. We are monitoring the situation closely.

Academy School: Wirral, South

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether there are plans to introduce an academy school in Wirral, South constituency. [225797]

Jim Knight: My Department is not aware of any plans to introduce an academy school in the Wirral, South constituency.

Free School Meals

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of providing free school meals to all pupils in maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in England. [225801]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made an estimate. However, a report commissioned by the School Food Trust estimated that providing free school meals for all pupils would cost at least an additional £853 million in maintained primary and £673 million in maintained secondary schools.

The Department together with the Department of Health recently announced a £20 million free school meals pilot. Local authorities in deprived areas will be invited to bid to take part in the pilots.

Public Libraries: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much additional spending has been allocated for public libraries in the Newcastle upon Tyne area for the next 12 months. [222629]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

Funding for public libraries is allocated to local authorities by the Department for Communities and Local Government, as part of the local government settlement. Local authorities then distribute funding among local library authorities. In addition, funding for various libraries related programmes such as "Boys into Books" and "Book Ahead" are made available from other funding streams in Government to fulfil certain strategic aims.

We have defined the "Newcastle upon Tyne area" as the locality containing Newcastle upon Tyne city council, Gateshead metropolitan borough council and Sunderland city council. We have interpreted the wording of the question as a request for projected spend for these local authorities for the next 12-month period, and also as a request for comparative historic data.

As funding arrangements relate to specific financial years it is not a simple matter to provide 12-month projected spend from a set starting point within year.

The figures set out in the table have been provided by the local authorities in question as projected spend for the financial year 2008-09, alongside comparative figures for the financial year 2007-08.

£ million

Local authority	*Projected library spend, 2008-09*	*Library spend 2007-08*
Newcastle upon Tyne	7.305	7.216
Gateshead	6.737	5.268
Sunderland	4.986	6.506
Total	19.028	18.99

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Annual Leave

Lynne Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 788W, on annual leave, when the leave arrangements for the Senior Commons Service were put in place; and if the Commission will review all leave arrangements for House staff and Members' staff. [225044]

Nick Harvey: The leave arrangements for the Senior Commons Structure have been in place for at least 10 years. There are no current plans to review leave arrangements. I understand that minimum leave arrangements for Members' staff are set out in the standard contract, but individual Members have discretion to grant more leave if they wish.

Catering

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 9W, on Department of Facilities: fats, what the nine products purchased by the House of Commons catering service are that contain hydrogenated fats or oils. [226138]

Nick Harvey: The nine products purchased by the House of Commons catering service so far identified as containing hydrogenated fats or oils are:

Cadbury's Highlights hot chocolate drink;

Cadbury's Instant Break hot chocolate drink;

Jacob's Club Biscuits (orange flavour only);

M and Ms (Mars confectionery);

Snickers Bars (Mars confectionery);

Brakes Vegetable Suet;

Maggi Beef Bouillon;

Maggi Chicken Bouillon;

Trenwax (spray fat used to grease baking moulds).

Four of the nine products already identified as containing hydrogenated fats or oils were specifically selected because they are gluten-free and, hence, are suitable for coeliacs.

Departmental Manpower

Ben Chapman: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) how many staff were employed by the House at the most recent date for which figures are available; [223927]

(2) what the total salary costs of House staff were in each of the last five years; [223928]

(3) what the pay grades for all House staff were in each of the last five years. [223929]

Nick Harvey: The House employed 1,696 full-time equivalent permanent staff during 2007-08. Total salary costs incurred during the last five years were:

	Salary cost (£000)
2003-04	39,174
2004-05	41,983
2005-06	44,302
2006-07	46,705
2007-08	50,450

The pay bands for all House staff during the last five years were:

(a) Senior Commons staff

£

Pay band	*Pay range*	*1 April each year* 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
SCS3	Maximum	126,816	129,352	133,233	137,763	137,763
	Minimum	89,085	90,867	93,139	98,000	99,960
SCS2	Maximum	116,964	119,303	122,882	123,000	123,000
	Minimum	72,316	73,762	75,606	80,000	81,600
SCS1A	Maximum	98,099	100,061	103,063	104,000	104,000
	Minimum	60,788	62,004	63,554	64,000	65,280
SCS1	Maximum	87,408	89,156	91,831	92,000	92,000
	Minimum	52,403	53,451	54,787	55,000	56,100

(b) Administration

£

Pay band	Pay range	1 April each year 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
A1	Maximum	57,286	64,989	66,614	67,340	68,954
	Minimum	46,505	47,667	48,859	49,392	51,180
A2	Maximum	52,293	53,600	54,940	55,539	56,991
	Minimum	38,343	39,302	40,284	40,723	42,236
A3	Maximum	29,977	30,726	31,494	31,837	33,284
	Minimum	22,225	22,781	23,351	23,606	25,000
B1	Maximum	36,198	37,103	38,030	38,445	39,394
	Minimum	28,548	29,261	29,993	30,320	31,350
B2	Maximum	30,497	31,259	32,041	32,390	33,183
	Minimum	23,466	24,053	24,654	24,923	25,756
C	Maximum	25,039	25,665	26,307	26,594	27,235
	Minimum	18,672	19,139	19,617	19,831	20,479
D1	Maximum	21,205	21,736	22,279	22,522	23,057
	Minimum	16,185	16,590	17,005	17,190	17,745
D2	Maximum	18,842	19,313	19,795	20,011	20,479
	Minimum	15,218	15,599	15,989	16,163	16,681
E1	Point	12,916	13,352	13,686	14,097	14,449
E2	Point	12,278	12,688	13,006	13,396	13,731

(c) Catering

£

Pay band	Pay range	1 April each year 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CGA1	Point	30,728	31,803	33,075	33,902	34,923
CGA2	Point	27,184	28,135	29,260	29,992	30,895
CGB	Point	23,047	23,854	24,808	25,428	26,194
CGC	Point	20,092	20,795	21,627	22,168	22,835
CGD1	Point	17,729	18,349	19,083	19,560	20,149
CGD2	Point	16,013	16,573	17,236	17,667	18,199
CGE	Point	14,342	14,844	15,438	15,824	16,301
Commis Chef	Maximum	14,075	14,568	15,151	15,530	15,998
	Minimum	13,215	13,678	14,225	14,581	15,020
Apprentice Chef	Maximum	11,052	11,439	11,897	12,194	12,562
	Minimum	8,348	8,640	8,986	9,211	9,488

(d) Craft

£

Pay band	Pay range	1 April each year 1 April 2003	1 April 2004	1 April 2005	1 April 2006	1 April 2007
Supervisor (C)	Maximum	—	—	—	26,594	27,235
	Point	20,133	20,919	21,756	—	—
	Minimum	—	—	—	19,831	20,479
Craftsman A (D1)	Maximum	—	—	—	22,522	23,057
	Point	17,981	18,682	19,429	—	—
	Minimum	—	—	—	19,478	20,115
Craftsman B (D1)	Maximum	—	—	—	19,478	19,934
	Point	16,537	17,182	17,869	—	—
	Minimum	—	—	—	17,190	17,745
Semi-skilled (D2)	Maximum	—	—	—	17,812	18,225
	Point	15,143	15,734	16,363	—	—
	Minimum	—	—	—	16,163	16,681
Non-skilled	Point	14,654	15,225	15,834	16,044	16,445
Apprentice	Maximum	15,284	15,880	16,515	16,995	17,420
	Minimum	7,192	7,472	7,772	7,998	8,198

Members: Allowances

Mr. Allen: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate has been made of the effect on paper usage by the Department of Resources of meeting freedom of information requests in respect of the publication of hon. Members' reimbursements; how many person hours this work has involved; and what the total cost of this operation has been to date. [224146]

Nick Harvey: There has been no discernable effect on paper usage by the Department of Resources in relation to the preparing of allowance expenditure information from the years 2004-05 to the first quarter of 2008-09 for publication later this year. The records are being reproduced electronically and will be published on the internet. The work of preparing the information for publication is being undertaken by the Department of Resources and by an outside contractor under secure conditions. Within the Department of Resources approximately 2,660 person hours have been dedicated to the project. No record is held of person hours expended by the contractor. The overall cost to date of preparing the information for publication is approximately £600,000.

Nurseries

Lynne Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent consideration has been given by the House authorities to the provision of crèche facilities on the parliamentary estate as an alternative option alongside the childcare voucher scheme for staff of hon. Members. [225978]

Nick Harvey: The provision of a crèche on the estate has not been considered since July 2003. Following a feasibility study and a survey of Members, the Commission weighed the options carefully and considered that most parents prefer younger children to be cared for at or near their home. Child care vouchers continue to be available for staff of hon. Members and staff of the House. Following suggestions that the voucher scheme be extended to Members, the Commission recently asked the Administration Committee to look at child care again and assess the level of demand among Members for any change to the current arrangements.

Official Report

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the average cost of making the *Official Report* available online was per sitting day in the latest period for which figures are available. [223991]

Nick Harvey: House of Commons printing and publishing charges, including electronic publication charges, are calculated in arrears by financial year. The *Official Report* is made available online as 'Today in the Commons', daily part text and bound volume text forms. For FY 2007-08, the average cost of making all of these forms available online was £1,100 per sitting day. Other costs associated with the production of House Papers, particularly staff costs which are not attributed to individual forms of publications, are not included.

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the average printing cost of the *Official Report* was per sitting day in the latest period for which figures are available. [223992]

Nick Harvey: House of Commons printing and publishing charges are calculated in arrears by financial year. The *Official Report* is made available in printed form as daily parts and bound volumes as well as weekly volumes; and indexes are also produced. Printing costs are not separately identifiable from the total overall charge raised by the contractor, for making copies of the *Official Report* available in the various forms and quantities required. For FY 2007-08, the average cost of making all the forms of the *Official Report* available in printed form in the total quantities required was £22,000 per sitting day.

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many copies of the *Official Report* were printed on average per sitting day in *(a)* each year from 1998 to 2007 and *(b)* 2008 to date. [223993]

Nick Harvey: The following figures for the average number of copies of the *Official Report* printed in each year from 1998 to 2007 have been provided by the House's printer as follows:

	Copies
1998	2,788
1999	2,655
2000	2,479
2001	2,296
2002	2,203
2003	2,165
2004	2,022
2005	1,987
2006	1,923
2007	1,549

In 2008 to date, 1,339 copies have been printed on average per sitting day.

Palace of Westminster: Theft

Mr. Sanders: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many articles have been reported stolen from the Palace of Westminster in the last 12 months; and what those items were. [225374]

Nick Harvey: From the latest statistical information collected, there were nine reported thefts from the Palace of Westminster in the last 12 months. Detailed information is given as follows:

One computer laptop;

One digital camera;

One set of golf clubs;

One pair of candlesticks; and

Five amounts of cash, all under £100.

Parliament: Internet

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what guidelines govern the blocking of access to websites from the parliamentary network; and if he will place in the Library a list of all blocked websites. [224558]

Nick Harvey: The Administration Committee approved the introduction of web filtering for Members on 30 January 2007 on the basis of a recommendation from the Joint Committee on Security. They did so as part of Parliaments' range of security measures designed to protect the parliamentary network and all its users from unauthorised access and viruses. The type of sites that are blocked relate to those that are associated with deploying or containing spyware, malware, phishing and other malicious content.

Members and staff have been notified of the process that they should follow if a site is incorrectly blocked or if they wish to view a site for research or other parliamentary purposes that has been blocked correctly.

No list is maintained within Parliament of individual websites that are blocked and the filtering service runs constantly to rate and block, if appropriate, new sites that appear on the web.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the operation of the law relating to abortion. [225311]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated any research evidence on the operation of the Abortion Act 1967, as amended.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 839W.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission an independent investigation into the operation of the law relating to abortion. [225937]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government keep up to date with all the latest evidence and developments in this area. For these reasons, the Government have no plan to set up an independent review.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admission episodes where the admission method was via accident and emergency for an alcohol-related diagnosis there were in each NHS trust where the patient was *(a)* under 10, *(b)* between 11 and 15 and *(c)* between 16 and 18 years old in each of the last five years. [222800]

Dawn Primarolo: Tables have been placed in the Library which give the number of finished admission episodes where the admission method was via accident and emergency for an alcohol-related diagnosis in each NHS trust for the last five years where the patient was under 10, between 11 and 15 and between 16 and 18 years old.

Data concerning hospital admissions are collected, analysed and published by the Information Centre for health and social care (IC). The IC methodology represents a count of all finished admission episodes where one or more of the following three diagnoses was mentioned in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in a hospital episode statistics record:

mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10);

alcoholic liver disease (K70); and

toxic effect of alcohol (T51).

The North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO) have developed a new methodology for analysing data concerning alcohol-related hospital admissions. Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology uses alcohol attributable fractions (AAFs). These AAFs consider a much wider range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimate the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. This methodology is currently being finalised and figures will be made available in due course.

Health: Tourists

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial assistance is available to people who are travelling abroad to help them pay for essential medicines or injections; and if he will make a statement. [225985]

Dawn Primarolo: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State recommends that all United Kingdom residents intending to travel either within or outside of Europe, take out private travel insurance before they go. Within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland, the European Health Insurance Card does entitle British tourists to treatment that may become necessary during their trip including maternity care, renal dialysis and managing the symptoms of pre-existing or chronic conditions. The UK also has reciprocal agreements with a limited number of non-EEA countries which provide UK residents with emergency treatment at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. However, neither of those provisions cover UK residents for all potential healthcare costs for example, repatriation back to the UK or private sector treatment.

Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance his Department has given to the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV in each year since its inception; how much is planned for 2008-09; how many officials provide the secretariat for the advisory group; what the grade is of each; what restrictions his Department places on the use of such funds; and if he will make a statement. [225712]

Dawn Primarolo: The Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV was established in 2003 to provide advice to government and to monitor the overall success of "Better prevention, Better Services, Better

Sexual Health: the National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV", published in 2001. Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library. Departmental officials have a close relationship with the chair of the group and with members. The secretariat is provided by one official at higher executive officer level on a part-time basis. Departmental funding covers the chair's salary, members' fees and expenses, events and publications. The value of the financial assistance to the group since its establishment is set out in the following table. In addition to this, in 2007-08 £90,000 was provided to enable the Independent Advisory Group to commission a review of the Sexual Health and HIV Strategy. The review—"Progress and priorities—working together for high quality sexual health: Review of the National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV" was published in July 2008, copies of this publication have been placed in the Library. We plan to allocate £150,000 to the group in the financial year 2008-09.

Financial year	£
2003-04	3,952.55
2004-05	70,173.39
2005-06	98,954.99
2006-07	104,179.63
2007-08	137,350.54
Overall total	414,611.10

Medical Treatments: Lasers

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce secondary legislation to deregulate Class 3B and 4 lasers and intense light sources. [225016]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following the responses to the "Private and Voluntary Healthcare Consultation: care Standards Act 2000. Regulations and national minimum standards consultation document", (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) we are currently undertaking further detailed work in order to examine a range of different deregulatory options regarding lasers and lights.

NHS Direct: Translation Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which non-English languages are offered to users of NHS Direct services; and what the total budgetary allocation for NHS Direct translation and language services is; [225324]

(2) what assessment he has made of the efficacy of NHS Direct translation and language services in providing equitable and accessible medical advice for non-English speakers. [225325]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Direct offers interpretation and translation services for all callers to telephone services through Language Line in the following languages:

Assamese
Azeri
Afrikaans
Algerian
Ashanti
Akan
Albanian
Amharic
Armenian
Arabic
Assyrian
Azerbaijani
Badini
Bengali
Burmese
Bajuni
Belorussian
Bosnian
Berber
Basque
Bulgarian
Brava
Brazilian
Cantonese
Cebuano
Creole
Chinese
Cherokee
Columbian
Cambodian
Chaochow
Croatian
Catalan
Czech
Danish
Dari
Dutch
Egyptian
Estonian
Eritrean
Esperanto
Ethiopian
Farsi
Fijian
Flemish
Fanti
French
Finnish
Fulla
Ga
German
Gurmukhi
Gaelic
Gorani
Georgian
Greek
Gujarati
Hakka
Hebrew
Hindi
Homa
Hausa
Hungarian
Hui
Icelandic

Igbo
Ilocano
Indonesian
Iraqi
Iranian
Italian
Japanese
Kashmiri
Kreo
Kirundi
Kurmanji
Kannada
Korean
Krio
Kosovan
Kurdish
Kinyarwanda
Kinyamirenge
Kazakh
Latvian
Laotian
Lao
Lubwisi
Lebanese
Lingala
Luo
Lusoga
Lithuanian
Luganda
Mandarin
Macedonian
Moldovan
Mirpuri
Mandinka
Malay
Mongolian
Moroccan
Marathi
Maltese
Malayalam
Ndebele
Nepalese
Nigerian
Norwegian
Nyakusa
Oromo
Pahari
Persian
Portuguese
Philipino
Polish
Pothwari
Pusthu
Punjabi
Romanian
Russian
Sotho
Serbo-Croat
Swedish
Serbian
Shona
Sinhalese
Siraiki
Slovak
Samoan
Slovenian
Somali
Sorani
Spanish
Sri Lankan
Scottish Gaelic
Sudanese
Swahili
Sylheti
Tamil
Tibetan
Telegu
Elakil
Tagalog
Thai
Tigrinian
Tigre
Tajik
Taiwanese
Turkmanish
Tswana
Turkish
Twi
Ugandan
Ukranian
Urdu
Ussian
Uzbek
Vietnamese
Welsh
Wolof
Xhosa
Yugoslavian
Yiddish
Yoruba
Zulu

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NHS: Buildings

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much capital expenditure there was on buildings in the NHS between *(a)* 1979 and 1997 and *(b)* 1997 and 2007 in real terms using 2006-07 prices; and if he will make a statement. [225033]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information in the following table shows total capital expenditure in the NHS over the period specified. The Department does not hold historic records that identify the proportion of this expenditure on buildings.

NHS capital expenditure, England, 1979-80 to 2007-08

		Capital net NHS expenditure (£ billion)	
		Nominal	*2006-07 prices*
Cash[1]			
1979-80	Outturn	0.452	1.512
1980-81	Outturn	0.611	1.727
1981-82	Outturn	0.738	1.903
1982-83	Outturn	0.771	1.859
1983-84	Outturn	0.793	1.827
1984-85	Outturn	0.874	1.912
1985-86	Outturn	0.927	1.920
1986-87	Outturn	0.940	1.886
1987-88	Outturn	0.926	1.757
1988-89	Outturn	0.928	1.649
1989-90	Outturn	1.222	2.027
1990-91	Outturn	1.426	2.193
1991-92	Outturn	1.524	2.212
1992-93	Outturn	1.752	2.467
1993-94	Outturn	1.594	2.184
1994-95	Outturn	1.865	2.517
1995-96	Outturn	1.736	2.277
1996-97	Outturn	1.341	1.696
1997-98	Outturn	1.089	1.343
1998-99	Outturn	0.808	0.975
1999-2000	Outturn	0.963	1.140
Resource Budgeting Stage 1[2]			
1999-2000	Outturn	0.908	1.075
2000-01	Outturn	1.246	1.455
2001-02	Outturn	1.732	1.979
2002-03	Outturn	2.107	2.333
Resource Budgeting Stage 2[3]			
2003-04	Outturn	2.602	2.800
2004-05	Outturn	2.624	2.750
2005-06	Outturn	2.151	2.209
2006-07	Outturn	3.069	3.069
	Estimated		
2007-08	Outturn	3.591	3.484

[1] Expenditure pre 1999-2000 is on a cash basis.
[2] Expenditure figures from 1999-00 to 2002-03 are on a stage 1 resource budgeting basis.
[3] Expenditure figures from 2003-04 to 2010-11 are on a stage 2 resource budgeting basis.
Notes:
1. Expenditure excludes NHS (AME).
2. GDP deflator 30 September 2008.

NHS: Consultants

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what amendments he proposes to table during the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill to rectify the omission of the names of current NHS consultants from the Specialist Register when it was created. [225994]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Health and Social Care Act received Royal Assent on 21 July 2008. The Government will lay before Parliament the draft Medical Profession (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2008. This is an Order in Council under section 60 of the Health Act 1999 subject to affirmative resolution. The draft order contains a provision, which will reinstate the powers of the General Medical Council to grant late entry to the Specialist Register to those consultants who did not join the register when it was created.

Paracetamol: Children

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what investigations his Department plans to undertake to evaluate the possible effects on children of taking paracetamol suspension type medicines; [224731]

(2) whether his Department will be introducing new guidelines for the retailing of paracetamol suspensions. [224735]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) continuously monitors the safety of all medicines in the United Kingdom and, where necessary, takes suitable action to safeguard public health.

As new evidence comes to light, the MHRA seeks advice on safety issues from its independent scientific advisory group—the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM). If action is needed, following an assessment of the risks and benefits of the medicine, then a number of regulatory options are available, including: withdrawal of a product from the market; and, amending the labelling and Patient Information Leaflet (PIL).

In relation to the use of paracetamol in children, a paper was published in *The Lancet* on 20 September 2008 which explored the possible link between asthma in children aged six-seven years and earlier use of paracetamol. This issue has previously been considered on a number of occasions by the predecessor to CHM,

the Committee on Safety of Medicines, and its Sub-Committee on Pharmacovigilance, which concluded that a causal relationship had not been established. The data from the most recent paper is under careful consideration by the CHM, and appropriate regulatory action, including the issuing of guidance, will be taken if necessary in the light of the advice obtained.

Parkinson's Disease: Medical Treatments

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which primary care trusts Duodopa has been prescribed for the treatment of Parkinson's disease in the last 12 months. [225272]

Dawn Primarolo: Between June 2007 and July 2008, Duodopa was prescribed in Central Lancashire, Leeds and Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trusts.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the choose and book service; and if he will make a statement. [226581]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not undertaken a specific assessment of the effectiveness of choose and book.

The Department does collect data on the number of general practitioner referrals to first out-patient services booked via choose and book each month. The end of month position for August 2008 showed that 49 per cent. of all out-patient referrals were made through the choose and book system.

To date over 10 million patients have been referred through choose and book of which over 8.5 million have been referred to out-patient care.

Trusts using choose and book are reporting significant improvements in operational efficiency and service delivery. For example, Kettering General Hospitals NHS Trust reported that choose and book helped to cut their missed hospital appointments by approximately a third.

Standish Hospital

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the arrangements are for the protection of the Standish Hospital site; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the placing of guardians there; and what investigation he has undertaken into the competence of *(a)* Camelot and *(b)* Safe Estates in relation to this site. [225864]

Mr. Bradshaw: The current arrangements for the protection of the Standish Hospital site are 24-hour manned security together with alarm arrangements and boarding of the property, including metal shuttering.

The Department was concerned that the use of guardians was not providing the desired level of site security. A tendering exercise, with appropriate evaluation, was therefore undertaken to put in place the current arrangements.

JUSTICE

Borders: Personal Records

Mr. Spellar: To asks the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008; when the agreement between the EU and the United States on the processing and transfer of passenger name record data by air carriers to the United States' Department for Homeland Security will next be reviewed. [225003]

Mr. Wills: The review is expected to begin before the end of this year.

Children: Protection

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy, acting as central authority under the Hague convention, where a family has had further children since emigrating with one or more children subject to an interim or final care order, to seek to transfer jurisdiction for child protection to the family's current habitual residence. [225035]

Bridget Prentice: The role and functions of the Central Authority are established through International law. The Central Authority has no power to transfer jurisdiction. Only a court seized of proceedings regarding a child may do so, and then only in accordance with international law.

Where a child is subject to an interim or final care order, and the family removes the child from the UK against the wishes of the local authority with care of the child, the local authority is entitled to use the Hague convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction to obtain return of the child from the jurisdiction to which he or she has been taken. The Central Authority is legally obliged by that convention to transmit an application for return of the child to the jurisdiction to which the child has been taken. These matters are not susceptible to policy review because they arise as a result of the UK's international legal obligations.

Upon return of the child under the convention, the courts here have jurisdiction to deal with all issues regarding the welfare of the child, and will take into account the importance of the child's family and sibling relationships. The mechanism in the convention providing for swift return of a child wrongfully removed is important in ensuring that children's cases are heard by the courts of the jurisdiction where they are habitually resident, which will be best placed to assess the child's welfare. Further, it ensures that people cannot seek to evade proceedings and orders by removing the child to another jurisdiction in the hope of escaping the attention of the authorities or getting a more favourable outcome from the court of another country which is less well-placed to assess the child's welfare than the courts of his or her habitual residence. This is essential for child protection.

If a parent or parents of a child subject to a care order wish to emigrate they can apply to the court prior to the emigration for an order allowing the move. In determining that decision the court can hear from all appropriate parties. If such an order is made the family is free to move and the courts of the new jurisdiction would assume jurisdiction for the child once its habitual residence was established there.

Consent to Medical Treatment: Children

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an estimate of the average age at which a child has been considered to be Gillick competent and able to instruct a solicitor in family court proceedings relating to his or her medical treatment. [225034]

Bridget Prentice: Data about cases in which children have been considered to be Gillick competent and able to instruct a solicitor in relation to medical treatment are not collected in a way which would enable an estimate to be provided of the average age of children in such cases.

Courts Service: Land

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to dispose of land owned by HM Courts Service at Spring Bank, New Mills. [224705]

Bridget Prentice: HM Courts Service is currently seeking to dispose of the freehold interest in the land at Spring Bank, New Mills as the planning consent for a new courthouse has expired and the site is now considered surplus to operational requirements. We remain committed to provision of court services to the High Peak area.

Courts: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the required expenditure for the courts estate in Northern Ireland over the next three years. [226213]

Bridget Prentice: The Northern Ireland Court Service settlement for the CSR period 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 includes a capital allocation of £7 million/ £7.4 million/£7.4 million respectively. This allocation will cover expenditure on essential buildings maintenance and other capital projects including ICT systems.

The Court Service has initiated a review of its future estate requirements for the medium to longer term which will inform the Department's bid in the next CSR spending round.

Criminal Proceedings: Interpreters

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps he has taken to ensure that there is an adequate number of qualified interpreters available for criminal proceedings. [224784]

Bridget Prentice: We have taken forward a range of measures aimed at improving both the quality and the availability of interpreters in the criminal justice system. In particular, we have sponsored a conversion course aimed at immigration interpreters from EU accession countries. The purpose of this is to upgrade their qualifications so they can register on the National Register of Public Service Interpreters which will enable them to work for the criminal justice system in this country. We have also supported bids for European funding from organisations interested in working in this area, resulting in two universities being granted funding to develop training in this area and explore video-interpreting.

Crown Dependencies: Meetings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what meetings he has held with representatives of the Isle of Man in the last 12 months; [222966]

(2) what discussions he has had with the president or members of the states of Alderney in the last 12 months; [222967]

Mr. Wills: The Secretary of State has held no meetings with representatives of the Isle of Man in the last 12 months. I met with the Isle of Man's Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Director of External Relations on 5 December 2007 in London and met with representatives of the Isle of Man Government, including the Chief Minister, in the Isle of Man on 29 September.

There have been no discussions between the Secretary of State and the President or members of the States of Alderney in the last 12 months.

Debt Collection: Parking Offences

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the powers bailiffs have to collect monies for unpaid parking fines under the provisions of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. [225722]

Bridget Prentice: Bailiffs' powers currently stem from common law and numerous pieces of legislation resulting in an array of mechanisms depending on the type of debt or type of agent responsible for enforcement.

The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 introduces a single piece of bailiff law which brings together in one place the legal structure for all warrant enforcement, written in terms that are easily understandable and which clearly outline the rights and responsibilities of creditors, debtors and enforcement agents.

To implement these provisions, underpinning rules and regulations will be required. A recently completed scoping exercise, which involved a series of meetings with relevant stakeholders, identified issues that require further public consultation. It is anticipated that the consultation will generate representations from a wide range of stakeholders, including the enforcement industry, local authorities, other Government Departments and lobby groups. Our proposed approach to progressing this and achieving implementation of the Act is being developed and we anticipate that this part of the work will be completed shortly.

Although formal consultation on the regulations has yet to begin, correspondence is regularly received on the enforcement reforms contained within parts 3 and 4 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act. However, due to volume, it is considered time disproportionate to review all correspondence to identify representations specific to unpaid parking fines.

Departmental Manpower

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 54-55W, on departmental manpower,

(1) what records his Department's human resources department holds on the number of *(a)* permanent staff without fixed posts and *(b)* staff classified as priority movers; [222194]

(2) what records the human resources departments of his Department's agencies hold on the number of *(a)* permanent staff without fixed posts and *(b)* staff classified as priority movers. [222195]

Mr. Wills: There are 53 MoJ permanent staff who are classified as priority movers, or who are currently without fixed posts. They are employed within the Department's agencies, including Her Majesty's Courts Service, The Tribunals Service, Office of the Public Guardian and Her Majesty's Prison Service. A break down for those currently without fixed posts are:

	Number
MOJ	19
HMCS	8
Tribunals Service	2
HMPS	24

All are in active employment, and their redeployment is being managed by their line managers and the Human Resources Directorate within the Ministry of Justice, and across the wider civil service.

Each case is actively managed in accordance with published departmental policy and procedures.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff from public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies were seconded to *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [222197]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has not seconded any staff from public relations, public affairs firms or consultancies from within its former Department for Constitutional Affairs agencies and associated offices or from Her Majesty's Prison Service or National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform within the last five years.

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of his Department's budget and that of its predecessor was used for research within its areas of responsibility in each of the last 10 years. [218073]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is in the following table.

	MOJ HQ	*OPG*	*HMCS*	*Percentage OCJR*
1998-99	[1]—	n/a	[3]—	n/a
1999-2000	0.38	n/a	[3]—	n/a
2000-01	0.36	n/a	[3]—	n/a
2001-02	0.24	[2]—	[3]—	n/a
2002-03	0.51	0.09	[3]—	n/a
2003-04	0.35	0.20	[3]—	n/a
2004-05	0.19	0.34	[3]—	0.04
2005-06	0.19	0.40	0.07	0.18
2006-07	0.25	0.14	0.08	0.51
2007-08	1.65	0.08	0.12	[4]—

[1] Ministry of Justice Headquarters and Associated Offices.
1998-99 to May 2003: Lord Chancellor's Department.
June 2003 to April 2007: Department for Constitutional Affairs.
May 2007 to present: Ministry of Justice.
The proportion of spend for 2007-08 comprises 0.32 per cent. administration expenditure and 1.33 per cent. programme expenditure. The increase over 2006-07 reflects the creation of the new Ministry following a machinery of government change. National Offender Management Service HQ elements and Office of Criminal Justice Reform are included in the make up of the 'core Department' in the 2007-08 Resource Accounts.
Expenditure for all years is in respect of research and development. Identifying the research element could be done only at disproportionate cost.
The proportion of spend for 1998-99 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
[2] Office of the Public Guardian.
2001-02 to September 2007: Public Guardianship Office.
October 2007 to present: Office of the Public Guardian.
The Public Guardianship Office became an executive agency of the Lord Chancellor's Department in April 2001. The proportion of spend for 2001-02 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
[3] HM Courts Service.
1998-99 to 2005-06: Court Service.
2005-06 to present: HM Courts Service.
The proportion of spend for 1998-99 to 2004-05 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
[4] Office for Criminal Justice Reform.
OCJR was launched in 2004 and therefore prior year figures are unavailable. The proportion of spend for 2007-08 was 0.23 per cent. This has been consolidated with the MOJ HQ figure as OCJR was included in the 'core Department' in the 2007-08 resources accounts.

Tribunals Service.

No direct research costs have been incurred since the Tribunals Service was launched in April 2006.

HM Prison Service and National Probation Service.

No direct research costs have been incurred by the HMPS and NPS as research is undertaken at NOMS HQ level.

Research and development expenditure can be identified in the relevant Department/Agency's resource accounts available on their internet site and via the Office of Public Sector Information.

Historic data are also collated by ONS and can be found at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/dius/science/science-funding/set-stats/index.html

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in his (i) Department and (ii) executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [220173]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 651-57W.

Electoral Register: Commonwealth

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of Commonwealth citizens who are registered to vote and do not have leave to remain in the UK. [224333]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of Commonwealth citizens who are registered to vote and do not have leave to remain in the UK. (224333)

The Office for National Statistics publishes information collected by local authorities on the numbers of people on electoral rolls who are registered to vote in the United Kingdom. The data available from local authority electoral returns do not make it possible to distinguish those who are Commonwealth citizens, nor do they include information on eligibility to remain in the UK.

Family Law

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the consequences for his Department's responsibilities of the European Court of Human Rights case X v Croatia, reported in July 2008. [224772]

Bridget Prentice: This case involved a mother who was divested of capacity to act under Croatian law. She played no part in the adoption proceedings. The European Court of Human Rights held that there was insufficient involvement of the mother in the decision-making process and it was this that breached her Article 8 rights. In England and Wales the parent is a party to the placement and adoption proceedings. A party, or an intended party, who lacks capacity (within the meaning of the Mental Capacity Act 2005) to conduct the proceedings must have a litigation friend to conduct proceedings on his or her behalf. This means that the person is represented in the proceedings.

Freedom of Information: Local Authorities

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on whether responses prepared by local authorities' freedom of information officers should be passed to council group leaders for approval or amendment. [225657]

Mr. Wills: The Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not require responses to freedom of information requests made to local authorities to be passed to council group leaders for approval or amendment and the Ministry of Justice has issued no guidance on this issue. It is the responsibility of each authority covered by the Freedom of Information Act to ensure that it complies with its statutory obligations and follows the section 45 code of practice when handling requests for information.

Legal Systems: Islam

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there are any courts in England and Wales which incorporate elements of Sharia law in their work; and if he will make a statement. [225996]

Bridget Prentice: The legal system that operates the courts in England and Wales does not incorporate any elements of Sharia law.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter to him from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 25 July 2008 (reference: 209717) on a court case. [225991]

Maria Eagle: I replied to the hon. Member on 9 October. I apologise for the delay.

Open Prisons: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners absconded from open prisons in each of the last five years, broken down by prison establishment. [225387]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of prisoners who have absconded from open prisons between April 2003 and March 2008 broken down by *(a)* prison and *(b)* year. The number of absconds last year was the lowest level since centralised recording began in 1995 and levels have continued to fall in the current year. Escapes too have been falling for over a decade with the current low levels having been sustained for some years now. This is despite considerable increases in population over the same period. It is my intention to continue this downward trend.

Establishment name	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Askham Grange	31	12	14	7	11
East Sutton Park	1	2	4	2	0
Ford	142	110	96	62	47
Hewell Grange	31	24	24	13	15
Hollesley Bay	36	32	16	21	19
Kirkham	213	120	74	54	65
Leyhill	114	102	66	37	55
Moorland/Hatfield	68	73	49	41	23
North Sea Camp	79	33	49	48	46
Norwich (Britten House Open Element)	—	8	2	2	1
Usk\Prescoed	35	19	9	9	8
Spring Hill	60	36	34	11	21
Standford Hill	89	39	58	38	44
Sudbury	75	77	76	78	55
Thorn Cross	130	90	105	82	68
Wealstun	144	74	28	46	32

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Figures on absconds and a range of other prison performance statistics are available at:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/abouttheservice/prisonperformance/performancestatistics/

Parc Young Offender Institution

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when representatives of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Youth Justice Board and *(c)* the National Offender Management Service met representatives of Parc Young Offender Institution (YOI) to discuss the provision of inreach child and adolescent mental health services at Parc YOI in each of the last eight years; and when he expects such services to be provided. [226708]

Mr. Hanson: The director of HM prison and young offender institution Parc is responsible for the young persons' custodial facility there and during the last eight years, there have been regular meetings involving representatives from the Home Office, who previously had responsibility for the contract management of Parc, my Department, the Youth Justice Board and the National Offender Management Service. The provision of in-reach child and adolescent mental health services for young people has been an important issue for discussion, and has involved the Welsh Assembly Government in respect of the devolved responsibilities for health services in Wales.

The clinical director and directorate manager of the child adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) directorate, Cwm Taf trust has been involved in work with Bridgend local health board to progress the development of mental health service provision to adolescents sent to Parc. A meeting held on 19 September, was attended by representatives of Parc prison management, Parc prison health team (Primecare), Bridgend local health board, CAMHS directorate, Cwm Taf NHS trust and my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs. Moon).

At the meeting it was agreed that a business base proposal would be developed for CAMHS provision in Parc in the form of an 'inreach' team similar to that currently provided by adult mental health services. It is intended that this proposal will be discussed at a forthcoming Bridgend Local Health Board Prison Health Partnership meeting for approval and will then be forwarded to the relevant NHS Wales bodies for funding and commissioning.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will write to those juvenile courts which sentence young offenders to sentences at Parc young offender institution to inform them of the absence of inreach child and adolescent mental health services at that institution; and if he will make a statement. [226711]

Mr. Hanson: It is the responsibility of the Youth Justice Board to allocate placements to young people who are sentenced to custody, taking into account factors such as vulnerability, other individual needs and distance from home. The courts do not play any part in that process.

At a recent meeting it was agreed that a business base proposal would be developed for the child adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) provision in Parc in the form of an 'inreach' team similar to that currently provided by adult mental health services. It is intended that this proposal will be discussed at a forthcoming Bridgend Local Health Board Prison Health Partnership meeting for approval and will then be forwarded to the relevant NHS Wales bodies for funding and commissioning.

Prisoners: Armed Forces

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proposals his Department and its predecessor implemented since May 1997 to reduce the number of former and serving armed forces personnel sentenced to custody by the civilian courts in England and Wales; and what plans his Department has in this area. [224444]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The armed forces are underpinned by a culture of discipline which is reinforced through codes of conduct. Military law supplements UK civilian law but does not replace it. The Ministry of Defence takes seriously all unlawful acts committed by service personnel, but recognises that unlawful behaviour can be indicative of wider social or mental health problems. A variety of measures are therefore in place to address such problems where they arise and to reduce the risk of former and serving personnel encountering such difficulties.

Welfare support is available for all personnel in service, for their families and for service leavers, and we have arrangements in place to identify and address mental health problems quickly where they arise. All personnel receive a mandatory briefing and a guidance pack to help their return to civilian life. Since 2006-07, those leaving service early are assessed for their vulnerability to social exclusion and offered specialist help. A pilot project is in progress to test whether mentoring would also reduce the risks that vulnerable leavers can face when leaving the armed forces. Veterans facing difficulties in their civilian lives also have access to the free Veterans helpline and the Veterans Welfare Service which can signpost to sources of advice and help.

Through the 'Prison In-Reach' initiative, which the Government put in place in partnership with the relevant Third Sector organisations, veterans who have offended (and their families) are made aware of the specialist support available to them, both before and after release. In addition to the improvements in mental health care during service, a new model of community-based mental health care is being piloted at six sites across the UK providing veterans with access to culturally sensitive expert care; if successful, it is intended to roll out the model more widely. In areas not covered by these pilots, veterans serving since 1982 have access to specialist mental health advice from the Medical Assessment Programme at St. Thomas' hospital in London; this service is available to those veterans in prison whose health professions would like an expert assessment. The Ministry of Defence and National Offender Management Service are working in partnership to put in place measures to assess the current veteran offender population; this work should inform what further measures might be appropriate to help those who have served in the armed forces and to reduce offending.

Prisoners: Death

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps are taken to investigate the death of a prisoner from non-natural causes on the Prison Estate; [224750]

(2) what the average cost of investigating the death from non-natural causes of a prisoner on the Prison Estate is. [224751]

Mr. Hanson: The steps taken to investigate the death of a prisoner by non-natural causes are essentially the same as for all deaths in prison custody. In every case the police are notified and will investigate. Once their investigation is concluded the prisons and probation ombudsman initiates a further independent investigation. The key elements of their investigation are:

a named investigator will lead the investigation and a family liaison officer will liaise with the bereaved family.

the investigator examines all relevant documents and policies, and will interview relevant staff and prisoners as appropriate.

the primary care trust will also carry out a clinical review of the health care provided to the person before their death.

Other required actions following any death in prison custody are set out in Prison Service Order 2710: Follow up to Deaths In Custody.

Investigations into non-natural cause deaths, particularly suspected homicides, can take much longer to complete than those into apparent natural causes because, investigations by the prisons and probation ombudsman are suspended until the police have completed their investigations.

The costs of death in custody investigations are borne centrally by the Ministry of Justice and can vary widely. The prisons and probation ombudsman estimates that the average costs of his office in 2007-08 in carrying out deaths in custody investigations, including those occurring in prisons, young offender institutions, and among the residents of approved premises, was just over £16,000 per case. Separate figures for specific types of deaths such as non-natural are not available.

Prisoners: Employment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction during 2008 of changes to the core working day on the progress of prison establishments towards their purposeful activity key performance target. [226255]

Mr. Hanson: Following consultation with staff groups, unions, prisoners, external providers and stakeholders the Standard Core Day was introduced in the prison estate on 6 July 2008. Regular contact has been kept with the operational line throughout the implementation. A three-month review and assessment of the impact of the core day is due to begin in October 2008.

I will write to the hon. Member to inform him of the outcome of this review and will place a copy in the Library of the House.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours on average prisoners spent on *(a)* work, *(b)* other purposeful activity and *(c)* out of cell each week (i) in July 2008, (ii) in July 2007, (iii) in July 2006, (iv) in July 2005, (v) in July 2004, (vi) in July 2003, (vii) on each day of the latest week for which figures are available and (viii) on each Friday of the last four months for which figures are available in each (A) adult (1) male and (2) female prison and (B) (I) male and (II) female young offender institution in England and Wales. [226258]

Mr. Hanson: The average number of weekly hours of work and other purposeful activity, per prisoner per week, for each of the months requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House due to the volume of the information. Weekday time out of cell data are collated centrally each month. Therefore, the average number of weekday hours out of cell per prisoner in each of the months requested is shown in the table that has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Purposeful activity and time out of cell data are not collated on a daily basis. Therefore, data cannot be shown for each day of the latest week for which figures are available and on each Friday of the last four months for which figures are available.

Prisons

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many category A prisoners are serving sentences in category B, C or D prisons. [225042]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently no category A prisoners outside the High Security Estate. The High Security Estate consists of eight prisons; Manchester, Woodhill, Belmarsh, Long Lartin, Wakefield, Whitemoor, Frankland and Full Sutton. These are the only prison establishments in England and Wales permitted to hold category A prisoners or those evaluated as provisional category A prisoners, unless the director of high security prisons approves otherwise.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison cells have en-suite showers. [225054]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is not held centrally, but I have asked that the National Offender Management Service take steps to obtain this information. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of assaults upon prison officers in the course of their duties in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [226683]

Mr. Hanson: The following data is subject to important qualifications. The NOMS incident reporting system processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide a good indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute. There is a slight lag in reporting which means that the provisional number mentioned here will rise a little in the coming months.

Data on incidents where one or more staff are victims are shown as follows. Figures provided are for calendar years from 2005 to end of September 2008 for comparison purposes.

Assault incidents with staff as victim

	Number
2005	3,170
2006	3,150
2007	2,930
2008[1]	2,157

[1] This is for the first nine months of 2008 only.

Note:
From 2007, figures do not include the three prisons (Albany, Camphill and Parkhurst) where the incident recording has transferred to the NOMIS system.

Assault data are complex and the numbers need to be interpreted with caution. The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents; these may also include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact events and allegations. Information recorded as assault incidents may involve one or more victim.

NOMS and the Prison Officers Association are jointly committed to 'zero tolerance' on assaults on staff. The Secretary of State for Justice has written to the Attorney-General and Home Secretary, both of whom are committed to pursing a robust and consistent approach to the involvement of the police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in prosecuting such assaults. Along side working with the CPS and the police, enhanced guidance is also currently being developed by Police Advisers Section in NOMS headquarters on a much wider agenda of crime reporting in prisons. This guidance will address the subject of the reporting and investigation of allegations of assault on prison staff and aims to provide national consistency in classifying and responding to crime committed in prisons. The guidance will be an important step in making sure that the most serious incidents are referred to the police.

Assault information is categorised and recorded at establishment level. The recorded incidents of assaults on prison officers are not completely exclusive to officers; establishment recording sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff in this category.

Probation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his Department's planned efficiency savings for the Probation Service in England and Wales for 2009-10 and 2010-11 on the service's service delivery and quality. [225867]

Mr. Hanson: Probation service budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. The National Offender Management Service is developing specifications for all services delivered by the national probation service to ensure that resources are matched to priorities and offender's needs.

Repossession Orders: Wrexham

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* immediate and *(b)* suspended orders for possession have been made in mortgage possession proceedings in Wrexham County Court in the last five years for which records are available. [224621]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of mortgage possession claims issued and the number of suspended and outright orders made in Wrexham county court since 2003. However, the statistics on orders made in 2007 are not available for this court. Estimates have been produced for 2007 for Wales as a whole and these are shown in the table.

Court level statistics on mortgage and landlord repossession actions from 1987 to 2007 are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgagelandlordpossession.htm

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. As county courts' jurisdictions are not coterminous with the borough boundaries, any single court's repossession actions are likely to relate to homes in a number of different boroughs.

Mortgage[1] possession claims issued and orders made in Wrexham county court and the county courts of Wales, 2003-07

	Wrexham county court			*Wales region*		
	Claims issued	*Suspended orders[2]*	*Outright orders[3]*	*Claims issued*	*Suspended orders[2]*	*Outright orders[3]*
2003	139	57	32	4,193	1,729	1,099
2004	186	54	60	4,314	1,527	1,120
2005	236	92	78	6,469	2,156	1,789
2006	301	118	106	8,207	2,700	2,736
2007[4]	362	—	—	9,187	[4]2,991	[4]3,208

[1] Mortgage possession data include all types of lenders whether local authority or private.
[2] The court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually requires the defendant to pay the current mortgage instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.
[3] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[4] The rollout of the Possession Claim On-Line (PCOL) system in late 2006 has affected the availability of court-level data on mortgage possession orders. As a result it is possible only to provide court-level figures for those courts with direct on-site PCOL access for 2007. Wrexham does not have this access and therefore the required court level data are not available. Estimated figures for Wales as a whole are shown instead.

Source:
Ministry of Justice.

Voting Behaviour

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget has been established for the planned citizens' summit on weekend voting. [222929]

Mr. Wills: We are currently considering the budgeting and procurement of the citizens' summit to consider issues around election day and how best to provide value for money.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 9-11WS, on the consultation on weekend voting, whether he plans to pilot or introduce weekend voting in the 2009 European or local elections. [225562]

Mr. Wills: No. The 'Election Day: Weekend Voting' consultation ended on 26 September. Analysis of the responses received is now under way. The evidence gathered will be used to inform the debate on the merits of moving polling day to the weekends. The Government do not consider that it would be practicable to bring in the legislation necessary to introduce weekend voting for the 2009 European or local elections.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Shops

Philip Davies: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the most popular item purchased from the Downing Street gift shop was in the last 12 months; [222603]

(2) how much profit has been made by the Downing Street gift shop in the last 12 months. [222604]

The Prime Minister: A small selection of unsubsidised gifts are available for staff to purchase on a not-for-profit basis.

Departmental Manpower

Philip Davies: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many secretarial staff have *(a)* left and *(b)* joined his Office since 27 June 2007; [222605]

(2) how many full-time members of staff are employed in Number 10 Downing Street. [222821]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day he has answered on the due date in the current Session of Parliament to date. [226884]

The Prime Minister: My Office aims to answer all ordinary written parliamentary questions within five working days, and named day written parliamentary questions on the day named.

Since the start of the current parliamentary Session 96 per cent. of named day questions were answered on the day named.

Lehman Brothers

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings he has held with representatives of senior management of Lehman Brothers in the last 12 months. [226665]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Lord Mandelson: Pay

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister how much has been paid to Lord Mandelson as a consequence of his leaving ministerial offices; if he will bring forward proposals for a mechanism by which former ministers re-appointed to the cabinet could make voluntary repayments of severance monies; and if he will make a statement. [226712]

The Prime Minister: Severance pay is payable in accordance with section 4 of the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991.

Meetings

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings have been held between officials in 10 Downing Street and representatives of *(a)* Ogilvy UK and *(b)* WPP since 27 June 2007. [225561]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Ministers

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister which former Cabinet Ministers registered *(a)* directorships and *(b)* employment with the Cabinet Secretary after leaving office in the last 20 years; and in respect of which companies the registration was made in each case. [224905]

The Prime Minister: The requirements placed on Ministers after leaving office are set out in the Ministerial Code and its predecessor document Questions of Procedure for Ministers. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Ministers: Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Prime Minister how many Ministers do not receive a ministerial salary; and what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of maintaining their *(a)* private office, *(b)* staff, *(c)* driver and *(d)* car. [226007]

The Prime Minister: I refer my right hon. Friend to the ministerial appointments press notices released by my Office. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House and are also available on the No 10 website: http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notices.

National Economic Council

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister in what capacity the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform attended the first meeting of the National Economic Council on 6 October; and if he will publish the full minutes of each meeting of the Council on his departmental website and that of HM Treasury. [225931]

The Prime Minister: The National Economic Council meets in private. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is a member.

Official Residences

James Duddridge: To ask the Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with the Cabinet Secretary about the provision of Prime Ministerial accommodation and its implications for claims against the additional costs allowance. [225129]

The Prime Minister: The additional cost allowance is a matter for the House Authorities.

Security and Intelligence Committee: Manpower

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 883W, on the Security and Intelligence Committee: manpower, what the reasons are for not naming the Clerk of the Intelligence and Security Committee; and if he will make a statement. [225567]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 883W.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister when he will reply to question 220182, on staff, tabled on 15 July. [226920]

The Prime Minister: I replied to the hon. Member on 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 796W.

Written Statements

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1806W, on written statements, if he will take steps to ensure that information is ready for publication other than on the days immediately prior to a parliamentary recess. [226560]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1806W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average level of debt of those committed to prison for non-payment of child maintenance payment debts in each year since 2002-03 was; and how many people were in this category in each year. [223864]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases in Sunderland are being processed as clerical cases arising from *(a)* pre-2003 and *(b)* post-2003 legislative changes. [223865]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* written complaints and *(b)* telephone complaints from Child Support Agency customers based in the Sunderland area there were in each year since 2003; and how many of these did not receive (i) acknowledgement within two working days and (ii) an outcome or progress report within 15 working days. [223866]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

Council Tax Benefits: Scotland

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much subsidy for the provision of council tax benefit was provided to each local authority in Scotland in the latest year for which figures are available. [224643]

James Purnell: Local authorities in Scotland claim subsidy directly from the Department for Work and Pensions for council tax benefit they award to eligible claimants.

The latest available information is in the table.

Council tax benefit subsidy claimed[1] by Scottish local authorities in 2007-08

Local authority	*Subsidy claimed (£ million)*
Aberdeen	11
Aberdeenshire	8
Angus	6
Argyll and Bute	6
Clackmannanshire	3
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar	2
Dumfries and Galloway	9
Dundee	13
East Ayrshire	9
East Dunbartonshire	5
East Lothian	5
East Renfrewshire	4
Edinburgh	29
Falkirk	8
Fife	21
Glasgow	72
Highland	12

Council tax benefit subsidy claimed[1] by Scottish local authorities in 2007-08

Local authority	*Subsidy claimed (£ million)*
Inverclyde	7
Midlothian	5
Moray	4
North Ayrshire	11
North Lanarkshire	24
Orkney	1
Perth and Kinross	6
Renfrewshire	13
Scottish Borders	5
Shetland	1
South Ayrshire	8
South Lanarkshire	21
Stirling	5
West Dunbartonshire	10
West Lothian	9
Total	353

[1] Figures are from the unaudited subsidy claims submitted to DWP by Scottish local authorities and are therefore subject to change.

Departmental Surveillance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [222128]

James Purnell: Figures on public authority use of covert techniques controlled by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) are published annually by the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner who each have particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the House Library on 22 July. The figures provided in the reports are not broken down by individual public authority use of specific covert technique. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant Commissioner.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to make a decision on the payment of disability living allowance to UK citizens currently living in EEA countries in the light of the recent court decision on the matter. [222398]

James Purnell: People who are already receiving disability living allowance when they leave the UK to live in another European economic area state or in Switzerland can often continue to receive the allowance. The rules are set out on the Directgov website. The Pensions Disability and Carers' Service has considered about 500 claims and confirmed that these customers will continue to receive disability living allowance. We are considering the implications of the European Court's decision for people who are UK citizens but who live in another European economic area state or in Switzerland and who wish to claim disability living allowance. We will publish the criteria for awarding the allowance on the Directgov website as soon as possible.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many persons claimed the mobility component of disability living allowance in each year since its introduction, broken down by type of disability; and how much was paid to claimants with each disability type in each year at the *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower rate. [222515]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Income Support: Disabled

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of awards of income support on grounds of incapacity for work had a duration of *(a)* less than 13 weeks, *(b)* between 13 weeks and 28 weeks, *(c)* between 28 weeks and one year, *(d)* between one and two years, *(e)* between two and three years and *(f)* more than three years in the most recent period for which figures are available. [224154]

James Purnell: The available information is in the table:

Proportion of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claims where recipient is also receiving income support by duration of income support award

Percentage

	Less than 13 weeks	*Between 13 weeks and 28 weeks*	*Between 28 weeks and one year*	*Between one and two years*	*Between two and three years*	*Three years and over*
May 2007	5.7	5.1	6.4	9.7	8	65.1
August 2007	6.1	5.2	6.1	9.7	7.9	64.9
November 2007	6.2	5.4	6.0	9.8	7.9	64.7
February 2008	5.5	5.7	6.3	10.0	7.7	64.8

Notes:
1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Durations refer to the latest income support award. Claimants may not have been getting incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance for the whole duration of their income support award as repeat claims are not linked.
3. Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance is taken fully into account when working out how much of the applicable amount of income support can be paid.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

Maternity Benefits: Telephone Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many complaints he has received about the operation of the maternity allowance telephone line in the last 12 months; and what steps he is taking to improve its operation; [222665]

(2) what plans he has to reduce the time taken to make a first maternity allowance payment from the time of an application being submitted; [222666]

(3) what plans he has to reduce the backlog of maternity allowance applications and to speed up the process for future applications; [222667]

(4) what measures are in place to assist expectant mothers with the processing of maternity allowance payments. [222668]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your questions on the processing of Maternity Allowance applications. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We started to centralise the administration of Maternity Allowance claims in December 2007 and migration completed in August 2008 into four central units throughout the country at Yeovil, Wrexham, Hanley and Bury St Edmunds Benefit Delivery Centres.

Clearance times for Maternity Allowance had increased slightly over the summer months resulting in a backlog of 7000 cases awaiting action. This is as a result of an increase in births leading to an increase in Maternity Allowance applications by a fifth. This increase coincided with centralisation into the four units and a temporary dip in productivity associated with retraining existing members of staff.

We are responding to these difficulties by increasing the staffing in the centralised sites by a fifth, so they can cope with the increase in new applications. The 7000 backlog cases are being dealt with separately by sharing the cases across our wider network of Benefit Delivery Centres. We are making progress now on clearing these cases. Over the last 5 weeks record numbers of claims were cleared, by over 1,000 more than the weekly intake. The backlog has now reduced to 2000 cases. We expect to have fully cleared the backlog within the next two weeks.

Statistics relating to complaints about Maternity Allowance are not separately available.

Pensions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the unfunded pension liability for *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020 and *(c)* 2030. [224895]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not produce figures for overall public service pension liabilities in future years. Page 38 of the Long Term Public Finance Report published on 12 March 2008 has further details of the total unfunded public service pension liabilities.

Pensions: Mining

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the annual cost to his Department of disregarding pensions payable to former miners for the purpose of benefit entitlement calculations. [224180]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Miners' pensions are treated in the same way as other occupational pensions in the calculation of benefit entitlement. The information necessary to estimate the cost of changing current benefit rules to fully disregard miners' pensions is not available.

Rent Service

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the consequences of the decision of the House of Lords in R (on the application of Heffernan) v the Rent Service [2008] UKHL 58 on the Rent Service's approach to the determination of broad market rental areas; what action he plans to take following that decision; and if he will make a statement; [225175]

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Rent Service to complete its review of procedures resulting from the Heffernan judgment. [224563]

James Purnell *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* Following the judgment in the case of R (on the application of Heffernan) *v.* The Rent Service, The Rent Service have revised their guidance to rent officers on the setting of locality boundaries. The Department for Work and Pensions and the Rent Service are working closely together to consider the wider implications of the judgment. The Rent Service aims to be in a position to provide details of their plans to recommence their rolling programme of reviews at the end of October 2008.

Social Security Benefits: Uprating

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* evaluated on the effects of (i) increases in energy and food prices and (ii) the timetable for benefits uprating on those in receipt of benefits; and if he will make a statement. [223835]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No specific research has been undertaken or commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions on the increases in energy and food prices or the timetable for benefit uprating. However, the Government continue to monitor the situation closely.

The Chancellor announced in his Budget 2008 speech that for winter 2008-09 an additional payment will be made alongside the winter fuel payment. Households with a member aged 60 to 79 will receive an additional £50 and households with a member aged 80 or over will receive an additional £100.

On 11 September 2008 the Government announced a new £1 billion package of measures to help people cut their energy bills. Measures on offer deliver significant energy savings including increased help with cavity wall

and loft insulation. 11 million lower income and pensioner households are eligible for these free of charge. And for winter 2008-09 cold weather payments will increase in value from £8.50 to £25.00. Cold weather payments are made to vulnerable people in receipt of qualifying benefits, including pension credit, if there is a period of very cold weather in their area.

In terms of benefit uprating, there is a statutory requirement to review all social security benefits each year and to increase certain benefits from April each year.

The increases are calculated for most benefits using the annual inflation figure for the preceding September. This ensures that benefits keep their real value in broad terms. In order to complete all of the action necessary to ensure that the new social security benefit rates are put into payment in April of any year up-rating activity must commence in the previous year, which is why the inflation figure for September is used.

Unemployment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the details of the Labour Force Survey showing the number of economically inactive people who want to work and can work and who are not counted in the International Labour Organisation definition of unemployment. [226198]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the details of the Labour Force Survey showing the number of economically inactive people who want to work and can work and who are not counted in the ILO definition of unemployment. (226198)

Estimates of economic activity and inactivity derived from the Labour Force Survey (LPS) follow the international convention as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO). This does not require the LFS to record specifically whether people can or cannot work and, consequently, estimates on this precise basis are not available.

According to the LFS, people who are economically inactive are neither in employment nor unemployed and can be further categorised as follows:

1. those who have been looking for work in the past four weeks but are unable to start work within the next two weeks;

2. those who have not been looking for work in the past four weeks but would like to have a regular paid job; and

3. those who have not been looking for work in the past four weeks and who would not like to have a regular paid job.

This applies to all people aged 16 to 69. Economically inactive people aged 70 and over who were not looking for work are not asked if they would like a regular paid job and are therefore included in the third category.

Estimates for all three categories are provided in the attached table and are for the three month period April to June 2008, the latest available. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of people economically inactive aged 16 and over, by main category of economic inactivity—Three month period April to June 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Category of economic inactivity	[1]*Number (Thousand)*
Looking for work in past four weeks but unable to start work within next two weeks	**284
Not looking for work in past four weeks but would like to have regular paid job	*2,089
Not looking for work in past four weeks and would not like to have regular paid job	*15,563
Total economically inactive	*17,937

[1] Coefficients of variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See following Guide to Quality.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness

* $0 \leq CV < 5$ Estimates are considered precise.

** $5 \leq CV < 10$ Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** $10 \leq CV < 20$ Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** $CV \geq 20$ Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

It should be noted that the estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).

Source:

Labour Force Survey.

TRANSPORT

A12: Accidents

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents have occurred on the A12 between junction 30 (Dedham) and junction 31 (East Bergholt), including accidents on the said junctions, in each of the last five years. [225078]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents on the A12 between junctions 30 and 31 at Dedham and East Bergholt in 2003 to 2007 are shown in the table.

	Number of accidents
2003	10
2004	9
2005	7
2006	6
2007	17

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* nitrogen oxide emissions output of each fleet model of aircraft which (i) uses and (ii) is expected within the next 10 years to use (A) Heathrow and (B) other designated airports. [224995]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The data are not readily available by aircraft type. However, the analysis underpinning the consultation on adding capacity at Heathrow used certification data on the emissions of oxides of nitrogen

by aircraft type. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) hosts the databank of certification data for jet aircraft which is available at

http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=702&pagetype=90

Similar data was also estimated for aircraft fleets in various future scenarios at Heathrow. The results of this work can be viewed at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/heathrowconsultation/

Similarly CO_2 emissions from aircraft, at fleet level, are addressed at section 6 of annex B of the above report. These are based on forecasts of UK air passenger demand and UK aviation CO_2 emissions published by the DFT in November 2007. The document can be viewed at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/airpassdemandfullreport.pdf

Buses: Accidents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents involved buses in the last 12 months. [225625]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There were 8,442 reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one bus or coach in Great Britain in 2007.

These data are available in table 23 of 'Road Casualties Great Britain' at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/162469/221412/221549/227755/rcgb2007.pdf

Copies of this publication have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Cycling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of cycle lanes have been introduced in the last five years; and at what cost. [225613]

Paul Clark: This information is no longer collected centrally by the Department as part of the drive to reduce our burden upon local authorities in respect of the information we request annually from them.

However we do hold some historical data from earlier Local Transport Plan returns for the local transport authorities in England (outside London). The information is set out in the following table:

	Cycle lane (kilometre)	*Cycle lane (number)*
2001-02	405	352
2002-03	369	416
2003-04	386	424
2004-05	308	375
2005-06	234	267
2006-07[1]	140	253

1 Estimated.

Source:

Data taken from LA Local Transport Plan finance forms for: 2004-05; 2005-06; 2006-07; 2007-08; 2008-09; 2008-09 (received July 2007).

We do not hold any data on the cost to local authorities of introducing cycle lanes. Local authorities have indicated in their local transport plans that they planned to spend around £60 million on cycle facilities in 2006-07.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Executive agencies for which she is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in her (i) Department and (ii) executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [220177]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 651-57W.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Personal Records

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many instances of the loss of personal documents have been recorded by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each of the last five years. [225092]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of cases in which personal documents were claimed to be lost during an exchange with DVLA in each of the last five years were:

	Number
2003	4,021
2004	4,240
2005	3,242
2006	2,242
2007	2,782

Of these, the following numbers of claims were subsequently abandoned because the documents were either delivered late by Royal Mail or were subsequently found at home:

	Number
2003	2,584
2004	1,603
2005	1,615
2006	1,100
2007	880

To provide context, in the last financial year DVLA issued 7,285,931 driving licences.

Driving: Sleep Apnoea

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in how many road deaths obstructive sleep apnoea was a contributory factor in the last five years. [226310]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information on the number of fatalities resulting from reported road accidents caused by drivers with specific medical conditions is not collected.

The number of fatalities resulting from reported road accidents in Great Britain for which a police officer attended the scene and recorded the contributory factor 'Fatigue' was 87 in 2005, 78 in 2006 and 92 in 2007. Information on contributory factors is not available prior to 2005.

The contributory factor 'Fatigue' is recorded in accidents in which the police officer's opinion at the time of reporting is that the driver/rider was unable to drive effectively or perceive hazards due to being too tired. This may or may not be due to a medical illness.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there are procedures in place to provide regular screening of lorry drivers for obstructive sleep apnoea. [226311]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Drivers applying for a Group 2 licence (lorries and buses) must declare if they have a history of obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA). In addition, the medical report form D4, which has to accompany the application must be completed by a doctor and includes a specific question on sleep disorders. These forms have to be completed on licence reapplication every five years from the age of 45 until 65, and annually thereafter.

There are no procedures in place to provide regular screening of lorry drivers for undiagnosed obstructive sleep apnoea. However, to ensure sleep disorders are identified, DVLA includes relevant questions in the medical report that applicants for a vocational licence must have completed by a qualified medical practitioner.

The agency's publication 'At a Glance Guide to the Current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive' provides advice to medical practitioners and includes a section on sleep disorders making specific mention of sleep apnoea. The guide is freely available on DVLA's website at:

www.dvla.gov.uk

Heathrow Airport

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether a decision has been taken by the Government to proceed with a third runway at Heathrow. [225868]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As the Secretary of State made clear in a written statement on 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 75WS, the analysis of the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation responses and updating of the impact assessment is not yet complete. We are aiming to reach conclusions later this year and will inform Parliament of our decisions.

London to Midlands Railway Line

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government has taken to improve railway services between Coventry and *(a)* London and *(b)* Birmingham. [224981]

Paul Clark: The introduction of new timetables from December 2008, on the West Coast Main Line, will bring further improvements to train services between Coventry, Birmingham and London.

The Virgin Trains Pendolino operated London service will increase from a half hourly frequency, to one every 20 minutes. This will be provided throughout the week. The journey time will be one hour, compared with one hour 11 minutes in 2004, before the first stages of modernising the route were implemented.

The service provided between Coventry and Birmingham by London Midland is being increased to three trains an hour. Additional new rolling stock is also being introduced by this operator, of similar design to the modern Desiro units already in operation on the semi fast services between Birmingham, Coventry and Northampton.

London Underground

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Mayor of London and *(b)* Transport for London over future funding of the London Underground; and if he will make a statement. [226127]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The then Secretary of State my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly) made a written statement to the House on the future funding of London transport as a whole on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 74-75WS, the position of which remains unchanged. Departmental officials continue to hold regular meetings with Transport for London (TfL) to monitor spending and pressures across the TfL estate, including London Underground.

Lorries: Lighting

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to distribute Fresnel lenses free of charge to drivers of left-hand drive heavy goods vehicles entering the UK. [225932]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have already done so. We handed out 40,000 lenses at ports of entry in November 2006; a further 90,000 over the winter months in 2007; and, we are in the middle of handing out a further 60,000 at the moment.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to *(a)* increase access to and *(b)* improve the performance of the facilities available for online renewals of vehicle licence fees. [226684]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DVLA's electronic vehicle re-licensing (EVL) and statutory off road notification (SORN) service is not experiencing any performance issues, is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and takes less than four minutes to re-license a vehicle.

Motor Vehicles: Taxation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely effects of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's free prize draw for online customers on the number of people who renew their vehicle tax at their local post office. [225491]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Post Office Ltd. has, through regular discussions, been made fully aware of DVLA plans for electronic vehicle licensing and the volumes forecast to continue transacting through post office branches.

There was no separate impact assessment ahead of the prize draw as this had already been built into the transaction forecasts and shared with Post Office Ltd. This information has been incorporated into Post Office Ltd.'s plans for their branch network through to 2011. There has been no reduction in the number of post office branches issuing tax discs for DVLA.

Public Transport: Disabled

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to respond to concerns expressed by disabled public transport passengers. [224283]

Paul Clark: We are committed to providing an accessible transport system. We have regulated to ensure that all new trains, buses and coaches are accessible to disabled people. We made provision in the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 to extend the "right of access" disabled people already have to other services to transport and to introduce other measures to improve accessibility.

New regulations which came into force on 4 December 2006 gave disabled people a 'right of access' to goods, services and facilities with respect to transport services. These duties make it unlawful for a transport operator to discriminate against a disabled person imply because they are disabled, treat disabled people less favourably or fail to make a reasonable adjustment to the way they provide their services.

Railway Stations: Greater London

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the allocation of funds to enhance passenger facilities at James Street and Liverpool Central stations. [224490]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* In its draft determination of the outputs that Network Rail should be funded to deliver in the period 2009-14, the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) decided that there was not at present a sufficient case to include the James Street and Liverpool Central schemes. In its response to the ORR's consultation on its draft determination, which closed on 4 September, Network Rail accepted this independent view. The ORR's final determination is expected on 30 October.

Liverpool Central station has however been identified by the industry as a candidate station for funding from the National Stations Improvement Programme. The final selection of stations will be influenced, among other things, by the extent to which third party funding—from local authorities and the private sector—is secured to supplement the industry's own proposals.

Railways: Infrastructure

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Government's policy is on encouraging separation of train and station operations from infrastructure mainten..nce and renewals. [223867]

Paul Clark: It is generally accepted that the structures put in place at privatisation were flawed. The 2004 Rail White Paper and the Railways Act 2005 set out a new streamlined structure, which meets the requirements of the European Commission's First Rail Package, to deliver safer, more reliable railways that work efficiently. The new arrangements provide much-needed stability for the industry as a whole.

Road Traffic

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to business of traffic congestion; and if he will make a statement. [225551]

Paul Clark: This cost is not routinely estimated by the Department. However, in 2006, the independent Eddington Study, which was sponsored by the Department for Transport and HM Treasury, did present forecasts of costs to business of congestion. The report noted that by 2025, congestion on England's roads, if unchecked, will increase costs to business and freight by over £10 billion a year.

The full study is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/eddingtonstudy/

Roads: Safety Measures

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice he has given to local authorities which wish to introduced shared spaces on how to integrate this with safe access for those with disabilities. [225420]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has not issued guidance to local authorities on the general topic of shared space. However, it has provided advice on shared surface schemes, a particular type of shared space known to cause difficulties for some people with disabilities.

This advice is contained in the Manual for Streets published in March 2007. It states that

"Consultation with the community and users, particularly with disability groups and access officers, is essential when any shared surface scheme is developed.".

Sea Rescue: Lancashire

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many calls to HM Coastguard were made by residents of Lancashire in each year since 2000. [225405]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not collected in the format requested.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre, based at Liverpool has dealt with the following number of incidents in each year since 2000.

	Number of incidents
2000	844
2001	751
2002	772
2003	825
2004	845

	Number of incidents
2005	992
2006	1,006
2007	[1]

[1] Not available because of industrial action.

Shipping: Pay

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* the recruitment and *(b)* the retention of British maritime professionals of the decision by HM Revenue and Customs to review the guidance on the vessels that do not qualify under the Seafarers' Earnings Deduction income tax rules. [225630]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. I am of course concerned about any changes which may affect employment prospects for UK seafarers. However, taxation policy is a matter for Treasury Ministers.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the reclassification of seafarers' earnings deduction on the recruitment and retention of British seafarers. [226149]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. I refer to the answer that I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) today (UIN 225630).

Tolls: Humber Bridge

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to review the level of toll charges on the Humber Bridge. [226707]

Paul Clark: The Humber Bridge Board has recently put forward a proposal to raise tolls under Section 10 of the Humber Bridge Act 1971. The Board have undertaken a consultation giving the opportunity for anyone to register objections with the Department for Transport. The deadline for objections was 6 October. The Secretary of State must now decide, in line with the relevant legislation, whether to order a public inquiry before considering a decision on Humber Bridge Board's application.

Tour Operators: Insolvency

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) for what reason his Department was not able to grant the necessary indemnities to allow the fleet operated by XL Airways to be used to repatriate customers stranded overseas by the entry into administration of the associated tour operator; and if he will make a statement; [226104]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the travel industry, *(b)* the aviation industry and *(c)* consumer representative organisations on protection for all pre-payments made in respect of travel arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [226105]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport, alongside the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), worked with the administrators to try to develop a contingency measure that would allow XL's aircraft to fly their customers home. However, in the short time available it was not possible to reach a solution which did not involve an unacceptable level of risk to taxpayers' money. This is a complex area because of the range of potential creditors and liabilities in the UK and abroad when an airline goes into administration.

In 2005 the Government decided not to extend statutory financial protection for air travellers beyond the current Air Travel Organisers Licence (ATOL) arrangements, which apply to package holidays, in accordance with European law.

The Government are keen to learn the lessons of, XL's failure and over the coming weeks officials and Ministers will be discussing a range of issues arising with stakeholders with a view to improving the experience of passengers in possible future airline or tour operator failures.

Tour Operators: Licensing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent consideration he has given to the licensing of tour operators; and if he will make a statement; [226060]

(2) what assessment he has made of the financial effect on consumers resulting from the entry into administration of XL Airways; and if he will make a statement. [226061]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European package travel directive came into effect in 1990, and requires the financial protection of passengers on package holidays, so that in the event of insolvency they are reimbursed advance payments or repatriated. This was implemented in the UK by the Package Travel Regulations 1992. Anyone who (other than occasionally) sells or offers for sale package holidays must comply with these regulations. Where a flight is part of the package, the financial protection requirements of the Package Travel Regulations are provided by the Air Travel. Organiser's Licence (ATOL) scheme operated by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Those of XL's passengers who were on, or who had booked, a package holiday will be fully protected against any additional financial cost through the ATOL scheme. Passengers whose travel arrangements were not part of a package holiday may face additional costs, to the extent that they are not protected through credit card arrangements or scheduled airline failure cover which can be part of some travel insurance policies.

The Government are keen to learn the lessons of XL's failure and over the coming weeks officials and Ministers will be discussing a range of issues arising with stakeholders with a view to improving the experience of passengers in possible future airline or tour operator failures.

Traffic Lights: Accidents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents have been caused by failed traffic lights in the last five years. [225610]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of personal injury accidents in Great Britain for which a police officer attended the scene and recorded the contributory factor 'defective traffic signal' was 268 in 2005, 259 in 2006 and 256 in 2007. Information on contributory factors is not available prior to 2005.

The defective traffic signal factor is recorded in accidents in which the police officer's opinion at the time of reporting is that a totally or partially defective automatic traffic signal contributed to the accident.

Transport: Environment Protection

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the National Transport Model Team *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take on climate change; and if he will make a statement. [225506]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The National Transport Model estimates the impacts of transport policy on traffic and the associated carbon dioxide emissions. A number of analyses have been published providing the details of such work. Recent examples are:

Advanced motorway signalling and traffic management feasibility study, DFT, March 2008

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/policy/mtorsigntrafmanagement/advancemotorsign

The Eddington Study annex: Transport Demand to 2025 and the Economic Case for Road Pricing and Investment, December 2006

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/eddingtonstudy/researchannexes/researchannexesvolume3/transportdemand

Road Transport Forecasts for England 2007, October 2007

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/071023_AnnualForecast07.pdf

We are planning to publish an update of the Road Transport Forecasts for England later this year.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of tonnes of carbon dioxide produced on average each day by public transport. [225614]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides estimates of carbon dioxide emissions for buses, domestic aviation and railways. The National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) is published annually by DEFRA and provides estimates of CO_2 by transport mode, these annual figures for 2006 have been divided by 365 to give a daily rate.

Estimates of average CO_2 emissions per day in 2006, UK

	Average CO_2 emissions per day (tonnes)
Buses	13,419
Domestic aviation	6,398
Railways (diesel trains only)	3,487

Source:
National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory 2006

Transport: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role regional development agencies will play in the allocation of transport block funds currently allocated directly to local councils. [226374]

Paul Clark: Transport block funds are allocated to local authorities by the Department for Transport. However, the Government have sought advice from regions on their priorities for the allocation of a number of funding streams, including block grant. The guidance provided by the Government stresses that the advice should represent that of the whole region, and that regional development agencies, regional assemblies, leaders' forums (where they have been established) and local government will all have a key role to play in developing it. Final decisions on how block funds should be distributed remain with Ministers.

Transport: Schools

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving public service vehicles and minibuses carrying school children there were in each region in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [225534]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one school pupil casualty on their way to or from school on a public service vehicle or minibus in each Government office region in 2003 to 2007 are given in the table.

Government office region	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	7	13	11	4	9
North West	35	38	27	31	19
Yorkshire and the Humber	15	22	16	16	8
East Midlands	19	21	16	11	10
West Midlands	11	20	6	10	13
East of England	18	13	14	9	13
South East	25	23	28	22	22
London	42	34	22	22	23
South West	9	13	13	13	6
Wales	18	15	17	12	11
Scotland	20	13	21	18	11
Great Britain	219	225	191	168	145

It is not possible to identify the number of accidents involving vehicles carrying school pupils where there was no school pupil casualty.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving public service vehicles and minibuses carrying school children there were in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [226008]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one school pupil casualty on their way to or from school on a public service vehicle or minibus in Scotland and Wales in 2003 to 2007 are given in the table.

	Wales	*Scotland*
2003	18	20
2004	15	13
2005	17	21
2006	12	18
2007	11	11

It is not possible to identify the number of accidents involving vehicles carrying school pupils where there was no school pupil casualty. The Department does not hold road accident data for Northern Ireland. This is the responsibility of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

Tyne and Wear Metro

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish business cases submitted by the Nexus PTE in the last two years in respect of the future of the Tyne and Wear Metro. [223868]

Paul Clark: Nexus (the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive) has submitted two business cases to the Department for Transport in the last two years in respect of the Tyne and Wear Metro.

The Metro Reinvigoration Business Case was submitted to the Department in January 2007. This document is on Nexus' website at:

http://www.nexus.org.uk/wps/wcm/resources/file/eb1bd00c5571bc6/MetroReInvigorationBusinessCaseFinal110307.pdf

with appendices at:

http://www.nexus.org.uk/wps/wcm/resources/file/eb1bd10c55796e2/Appendices140207.pdf

The Business Case for the Ticketing and Gating Scheme was submitted in March 2007. This is available on Nexus' website at:

http://www.nexus.org.uk/wps/wcm/resources/file/eb7cb04aedbf98e/Metro.pdf

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made in respect of value for money for the future of the Tyne and Wear Metro in respect of *(a)* keeping the Metro as an integrated railway and *(b)* separating train and station operations from infrastructure maintenance and renewals. [223869]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport believes that the funding it intends to provide for the renewal of major capital assets on the Tyne and Wear Metro represents value for money as a capital investment. The Department believes that this value for money is most likely to be secured by retaining the capital infrastructure of the system within public ownership and under the direct control of Nexus, the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive. However the Department believes that a market test, such as Nexus are intending to undertake, for the running of train services and station operations, should provide an effective way to secure best value for money in the ongoing operation of the system.

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether tendering of Tyne and Wear Metro operations is a condition of future funding. [223870]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport announced, on 31 July 2008, its intention to provide funding to Nexus (the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive) to support a programme of asset renewal on the Tyne and Wear Metro and the continued operation of the system until 2019.

The funding was approved on the basis of Nexus' procurement plans, which involved a proposal to tender for the operation of the system. Final approval of the funding will be considered only once the tender process has been completed to the Department's satisfaction.

Vehicle Number Plates

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been raised by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency from the sale and auction of registration marks in each of the last four years. [224659]

Jim Fitzpatrick: During the last four financial years the income raised from the sale and auction of registration marks has been disclosed in the agency's accounts as follows:

£000

Financial year	*Gross income*	*Costs*	*Net income to Treasury*
2007-08	86,948	(14,353)	72,595
2006-07	87,427	(13,143)	74,284
2005-06	83,986	(12,192)	71,794
2004-05	83,438	(11,799)	71,639

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many UK troops were wounded in Afghanistan in each month of operations in the last two years; [225726]

(2) how many injuries in each category were suffered by UK forces in Afghanistan in each month of operations in the last two years. [225727]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since January 2006 a total of 138 UK service personnel have been seriously injured or wounded and 470 have been admitted to field hospital as wounded in action in Afghanistan. A further 1,289 were admitted to a field hospital with disease or non-battle injuries over the same period. The following table provides a breakdown by year and month of these figures.

Number of UK troops wounded in Afghanistan[1,2,3,4,5,6,7] – 1 January 2006 to 15 September 2008

		Casualties (excluding natural causes)[8]			Field hospital admissions[9]		
	Month	Total	Very seriously injured or wounded	Seriously injured or wounded	Total	Wounded in action	Disease or non battle injury
2006	Total	31	18	13	240	85	155
	January	0	0	0	0	0	0
	February	0	0	0	0	0	0
	March	0	0	0	6	0	6
	April	3	2	1	18	7	11
	May	0	0	0	1	0	1
	June	4	1	3	33	18	15
	July	3	1	2	19	12	7
	August	4	4	0	9	4	5
	September	10	7	3	37	29	8
	October	3	1	2	14	4	10
	November	2	1	1	72	3	69
	December	2	1	1	31	8	23
2007	Total	63	23	40	820	233	587
	January	0	0	0	42	11	31
	February	3	1	2	29	12	17
	March	1	0	1	46	14	32
	April	2	1	1	132	13	119
	May	14	5	9	87	38	49
	June	6	2	4	72	29	43
	July	5	2	3	96	20	76
	August	7	3	4	75	22	53
	September	8	5	3	76	26	50
	October	3	0	3	53	8	45
	November	10	3	7	73	29	44
	December	4	1	3	39	11	28
2008	Total (to date)	44	16	28	699	152	547
	January	7	0	7	42	11	31
	February	6	3	3	61	9	52
	March	8	4	4	54	8	46
	April	3	0	3	107	9	98
	May	3	2	1	115	14	101
	June	3	0	3	80	10	70
	July	7	3	4	102	43	59
	August	4	2	2	92	30	62
	1 to 15 September	3	2	1	46	18	28

[1] These data are provisional and subject to change.
[2] The admissions data contain UK personnel admitted to any field hospital, whether operated by UK or Coalition Medical Facilities.
[3] The personnel listed as VSI or SI may also appear in the UK field hospital admissions and Aeromed Evacuations data.
[4] The 2006 disease or non battle injury figures are non battle injuries only until 27 October, disease is included from 28 October to be consistent with Op Telic reporting.
[5] 2006 field hospital admissions data starts 1 March 2006.
[6] The VSI and SI injury data includes records classified as 'other causes'. This classification is used when there is insufficient information to attribute a casualty to injury or natural cause.
[7] The 2006 data may include civilians, service numbers were not provided until the end of 2006.
[8] Source: NOTICAS
[9] Source: UK and Coalition Medical Facilities

Casualty statistics for UK military and civilian personnel in Afghanistan are routinely updated each fortnight on the MOD website. The tables can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many enemy combatants were killed by UK troops in Afghanistan in each month of operations in the last two years. [225728]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 832W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Armed Forces: Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicewomen requested an abortion in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* the age of the woman, *(b)* the grounds for the abortion, *(c)* the number of weeks of gestation at which the request was made, *(d)* the procedures used and *(e)* whether the operation was performed. [225671]

Mr. Kevan Jones: These figures are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force alcohol strategies; and if he will make a statement. [225910]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Officials are preparing a joint service publication which will incorporate the MOD's alcohol strategy. It is expected to be published by the end of this year. I will place a copy of the alcohol strategy element in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Career Breaks

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of HM Armed Forces have availed themselves of the scheme enabling them to have a career break; and if he will make a statement. [225664]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* Members of the armed forces have been able to apply to take a career break since 31 May 2005. Career breaks for service personnel are granted at the absolute discretion of the service, when manning margins allow and where they do not compromise operational capability. In that time, the number of career breaks taken has been: Royal Navy, 19 (figures only available from March 2006); Army, 45; and Royal Air Force, 35.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on measures to prevent blue on blue engagements by armed forces units. [223823]

Mr. Hutton: The MOD has a Combat Identification programme to improve its capability in this area and is working with NATO working groups and Coalition allies to develop interoperable solutions. Recent progress has included equipment procured for operations in response to specific theatre requirements, such as an improved aircraft targeting pod capability and improved forward air controller equipment, as well as further developing combat ID awareness and pre-deployment training. Further information can be found on page 103 of the MOD annual report and accounts 2007-08 at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports0708/

A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department have held discussions in the last four months with Essex County Council about possible involvement by his Department or Colchester Garrison in the future of secondary school education in Colchester; and if he will make a statement. [226217]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There have been no discussions in the last four months between the Ministry of Defence and Essex county council concerning the future of secondary school education in Colchester.

Armed Forces: Education

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what sources of funding there are for further and higher education payments to be made to service personnel as outlined in the Service Personnel Command Paper; and whether these payments will cover living costs. [222072]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Funding to meet this commitment comprises that already allocated as employer contributions to the Armed Forces Enhanced Learning Credits (ELC) scheme supplemented by resources made available by DIUS and the Scottish and Welsh administrations.

The commitment in the Service Personnel Command Paper (Cm 7424) applies to tuition fees. Additional living or other expenses incurred by service leavers in further or higher education are not covered, but a range of other support sources are available to help with non-tuition related costs where appropriate such as discretionary learner support funds for students in further education who need help with additional costs associated with their learning such as books, travel and child care.

Armed Forces: Finance

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual *(a)* operating and *(b)* support costs are for one unit of *(a)* an armoured regiment equipped with Challenger 2 tanks, *(b)* a formation reconnaissance regiment, *(c)* an engineer regiment, *(d)* a Royal Marine Commando battalion, *(e)* a Regular Army equipment support battalion, *(f)* a Royal Logistics Corps regiment and *(g)* a (National Communications) Signal Brigade. [224701]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Mentally Ill

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were medically discharged for mental and behavioural disorders in each year since 2001. [226981]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of service personnel medically discharged for mental and behavioural disorders in each year since 2001 is contained in the following table.

Naval service, Army and RAF medical discharges for mental and behavioural disorders, numbers[1], 2001-07

	All years	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Naval service[2]	265	30	40	40	30	45	40	40
Army	770	105	110	90	120	120	110	115
RAF	290	20	15	30	65	40	80	50

[1] Numbers may not add up to the sum of their parts due to rounding to the nearest 5.
[2] Includes the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines.

All numbers presented have been rounded to the nearest five to avoid disclosure of individual identities.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many out-of-court settlements there were regarding war pensions in each of the last five years; and what information his Department holds on the reasons for such settlements being made. [222531]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of the number of common law compensation claims brought against the MOD together with payments made and the basis for settling such claims is set out in the Department's claims annual report. Copies of the report are available in the Library of the House for each year since it was first published in 1997-98. About 97 per cent. of such claims are settled one way or the other out of court. The 2007-08 report is scheduled to be published in the autumn and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Details of compensation payments made under the War Pensions Scheme in respect of War Disablement Pensions in each of the last five years are set out in the following table.

April to March each year	*Cases qualifying for payment*	*Ex-gratia comp for delay*	*Ex-gratia actual financial loss*	*Loss of statutory entitlement*	*Ex-gratia consolatory payment*
2003-04	37	20	6	5	6
2004-05	139	120	5	2	12
2005-06	35	22	1	3	9
2006-07	34	17	7	4	6
2007-08	35	16	7	1	11
Total	280	195	26	15	44

Armed Forces: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has commissioned on post-traumatic stress syndrome and related topics in order to facilitate the discharge of its duty of care for members of HM Armed Forces. [225499]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1581W, to the hon. Member for Teignbridge (Richard Younger-Ross).

Armed Forces: Resignations

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* officers, *(b)* non-commissioned officers or equivalent ranks and *(c)* other ranks or equivalent left (i) the Royal Navy, (ii) the Royal Marines, (iii) the Army and (iv) the Royal Air Force in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many from each of the above rank categories in each service were involuntarily discharged. [225142]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The following table shows the number of trained officers, non-commissioned officers (NGOs) or equivalent ranks and other ranks or equivalent that left the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, the Army and the Royal Air Force Regular Forces[1] in each of the last five financial years.

[1] UK Regular Forces exclude Gurkhas, Full -Time Reserve personnel, and mobilised reservists.

All Outflow		*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Royal Navy	Total	2,890	2,960	2,680	2,650	[1]2,580
	Officers	350	380	400	[1]370	[1]410
	NCOs[2]	1,290	1,300	1,080	[1]1,080	[1]1,130
	Other Ranks[3]	1,250	1,280	1,200	1,190	[1]1,050
Royal Marines	Total	550	630	620	560	[1]540
	Officers	30	40	30	[1]30	[1]50
	NCOs[2]	200	220	230	[1]170[1]	[1]180
	Other Ranks[3]	320	370	360	[1]350[1]	[1]300
Royal Air Force	Total	3,460	3,270	4,340	4,740	[1]4,430
	Officers	580	640	670	800	[1]720
	NCOs[2]	1,560	1,390	2,010	2,590	[1]2,270
	Other Ranks[3]	1,320	1,240	1,660	1,350	[1]1,440

All Outflow		*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Army	Total	9,570	10,740	10,500	[1]10,930	[1]10,470[2]
	Officers	780	900	980	[1]1,110	[1]1,160
	NCOs[2]	4,420	5,090	5,450	[1]5,300	[1]5,360
	Other Ranks[3]	4,370	4,750	4,080	[1]4,520	[1]3,950

[1] Provisional
[2] Non-Commissioned Officers are Ratings at Leading Hand and above in the Royal Navy, Ratings at Lance Corporal and above in the Royal Marines, Soldiers at Lance Corporal and above in the Army and Airmen at Corporal and above in the Royal Air Force.
[3] Other ranks have been classified as ratings of able rate in the Royal Navy, ratings at Marine in the Royal Marines, Private and Junior Soldiers in the Army and Junior Technician/Leading/Senior Aircraftsmen in the Royal Air Force.
Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

The following table shows the number of trained officers, non-commissioned officers (NCOs) or equivalent ranks and other ranks or equivalent that were involuntarily discharged[1] from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, the Army and the Royal Air Force Regular Forces[2] in each of the last five financial years.

[1] Involuntarily discharged is defined as all types of outflow excluding voluntary outflow. Personnel who leave the armed forces voluntarily before the end of their agreed engagement or commission period are classed as voluntary outflow.

[2] UK Regular Forces exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve personnel, and mobilised reservists.

Involuntarily Discharged		*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Royal Navy	Total	1,380	1,320	1,210	[1]1,070	930
	Officers	200	230	230	[1]180	[1]160
	NCOs[2]	750	670	530	[1]510	[1]450
	Other Ranks[3]	430	420	450	[1]380	[1]320
Royal Marines	Total	210	250	200	[1]170	150
	Officers	20	30	10	[1]10	[1]20
	NCOs[2]	120	120	90	[1]80	[1]80
	Other Ranks[3]	80	100	90	[1]80	[1]50
Royal Air Force[4]	Total	1,820	1,540	2,270	2,840	[1]2,500
	Officers	380	410	430	540	[1]460
	NCOs[2]	790	640	1,260	1,860	[1]1,460
	Other Ranks[3]	640	500	580	440	[1]580
Army	Total	4,570	5,330	5,300	n/a	n/a
	Officers	280	370	390	n/a	n/a
	NCOs	1,930	2,310	2,760	n/a	n/a
	Other Ranks	2,360	2,640	2,150	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.
[1] Provisional
[2] Non-Commissioned Officers are ratings at Leading Hand and above in the Royal Navy, Ratings at Lance Corporal and above in the Royal Marines, Soldiers at Lance Corporal and above in the Army and Airmen at Corporal and above in the Royal Air Force.
[3] Other ranks have been classified as ratings of able rate in the Royal Navy, ratings at Marine in the Royal Marines, Private and Junior Soldiers in the Army and Junior Technician/Leading/Senior Aircraftsmen in the Royal Air Force.
[4] Due to the ongoing validation of the Joint Personnel Administration System, Army reasons for exit, including voluntary outflow, are currently unavailable for financial years 2006-07 onwards.
Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, all Naval Service and Army flow statistics for financial year 2006-07 and 2007-08 and all RAF flow statistics for financial year 2007-08 are provisional and subject to review.

Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Army: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army employees have been charged with a violent offence in each of the last five years. [225660]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Cadets: Schools

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the creation of new combined cadet forces in secondary schools; how many have been created in the last three years; at what cost; what target has been set for the number of such forces to be created in the next five years; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of meeting this target. [225000]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD's policy on the creation of new Combined Cadet Force (CCF) contingents in schools is to do so where resources permit. This applies equally to any independent or state school seeking the creation of such a contingent.

Eleven new CCF contingents have been formed in secondary schools in the last three years. This figure is skewed by the initiation of six state school pilot CCF contingents in 2007. This was a one-off project, set up with the assistance of the Treasury, at a cost of £800,000 (covering both equipment and infrastructure requirements). The set up costs at the remaining five schools varied due to the nature of their existing facilities and as such the costs are not held centrally and could be determined only at disproportionate cost.

Details of the schools gaining new CCF contingents since the start of the academic year 2005-06 are:

School	*Independent/state*	*Date established*	*Comment*
Culford School, Bury St. Edmunds	Independent	1 September 2005	—
Gad's Hill School Rochester	Independent	13 December 2005	This opening was concurrent with the closure of a contingent at a neighbouring school—kit was transferred
Aidenham School Elstree, Herts	Independent	1 April 2006	This CCF re-opened after being closed for 18 years
Archers Court Maths and Computing College, near Dover Budmouth Technical College, Weymouth Haberdashers' Federation, SE London Thomas Deacon Academy, Peterborough Treorchy Comprehensive School, Mid-Glamorgan, Wales Walker Technical College, Newcastle	State	1 April 2007	The six "pilot" state school contingents opened with Treasury support
Hartridge High School Newport, Mon., Wales	State	1 October 2007	Cadets paraded for the first time September 2008
Lucton School, Leominster, Herefordshire	Independent	1 September 2008	Converted to a closed ACF in the early 1990s. Now re-badged as CCF

It must be remembered that new CCF contingents are only one way to increase the numbers of cadet units in schools. As mentioned in the Service Personnel Command Paper, the MOD continues its work with the Department for Children, Schools and Families on increasing the number of cadet units in state schools and therefore no targets have been set for the number of CCF contingents to be created in the next five years.

Currently, the only new CCF contingent is planned for Wellington Academy, Wiltshire. This CCF will start up in September 2011 and THE Capital works are being funded by the Department for Children Schools and Families in this instance.

Climate Change

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what preparations his Department has made for the possible effects of climate change on the armed forces' *(a)* estate, *(b)* personnel, *(c)* equipment capabilities and *(d)* policies; and if he will make a statement. [225363]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A wide range of research (both general and defence specific) is already under way to help the Ministry of Defence understand better the possible impact on our estate, personnel, equipment and policies. This research will inform a risk-based approach to adapting to climate change across the Department.

We plan to publish our strategy on climate change before the end of the year. This will address both mitigation (the reduction of our own emissions) and adaptation (how we will adapt to a changing climate) and set targets as far out as 2050. Specifically:

Estates

MOD is developing a site based risk assessment methodology considering the environmental and physical factors associated with climate change likely to affect our core sites. This will allow us to identify and manage a proportionate response to the impacts of climate change on our estate.

Personnel

Research has been commissioned to investigate the effects of extreme climate on the nutritional requirements of operational troops and consideration will be given to how future personal clothing and equipment can be adapted both to reduce degradation and also to contribute to the maintenance of optimum health.

Policy Planning

MOD is conducting research with other Government Departments to assess the global impacts of climate change and how these will impact on Defence policy planning.

Equipment Capabilities

The outputs from the policy planning work will be factored into our plans for force development, equipment capability and personnel to ensure that our armed forces are equipped for and capable of a range of different operations.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of climate change on international peace and stability; and if he will make a statement. [225364]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The National Security Strategy describes climate change as potentially the greatest challenge to global stability and security; and paragraphs 3.34 to 3.37 of the strategy describe the potential effects. The Ministry of Defence shares that assessment.

Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data [221944]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has no central record of having purchased or made direct use of MOSAIC data or ACORN data. It is not possible to ascertain if data from these or similar tools has been used by external agencies or subcontractors working for this Department as it would be of a disproportionate cost to find out.

Departmental Buildings

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many properties owned by his Department are unused; and how long each such property has been unused. [226631]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) keeps its estate of around 240,000 hectares, which comprises some 80,000 of built estate and 160,000 of rural estate, under continual review to ensure that it is still required for defence purposes. Details of all MOD properties that are void (not in use for their intended purpose) and how long each has been void is not centrally available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Some details of void living accommodation are held centrally. The following table shows that service family accommodation (SFA) in the UK which was void at 8 October 2008. The majority of these properties are owned by Annington Homes Ltd (AHL) and leased to the Department until it no longer has a use for them and they are returned to AHL.

Timescale	*Number of SFA*
Under 3 months	3,539
Between 3 months and 6 months	1,256
Between 6 months and 12 months	1,524
Between 1 year and 5 years	2,270
Over 5 years	457
Total:	9,046

The majority of the SFA properties that have been void for the longest periods are those that are held pending large future redeployments of personnel, pending return to AHL or awaiting demolition, pending decisions on the future of MOD sites or where there is likely to be a long-term (rather than short-term) need for SFA in that area or pending major modernisation or upgrade work.

Departmental Telephone Services

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which agencies or units for which his Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers which charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225748]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* It is MOD policy that all calls made by the general public to MOD civilian/military establishments covered by the Defence Fixed Telecommunications Service contract should either be to a freephone number or be charged at local/national rates.

Ex-servicemen

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the categories of support his Department makes available to ex-service personnel; what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of such support; and if he will make a statement. [224562]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Veterans Strategy has three main pillars, delivered in close partnership with other parts of Government and the Third Sector: these are high quality preparation for service leavers returning to civilian life; advice and support for those ex-service personnel who need it and the promotion of understanding and recognition of the role veterans play in society. Support takes many forms including the provision of occupational pensions and no-fault compensation, resettlement training, help with employment and accommodation, as well as welfare support and tailored health care for those areas where veterans have special needs.

The needs of veterans and the provisions to meet these are kept under review in consultation across Government and with the charitable sector. Most recently, the Nation's Commitment outlined in the Service Personnel Command Paper of July 2008 reviewed areas of existing provision and set out the further enhancements that will be delivered in the support for service personnel, their families and veterans. These commitments will be assured by a reference group that will provide regular external and cross-Government audit, including an annual report to the Prime Minister and Defence Secretary.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were awarded a veteran's badge in each year since the inception of the award. [224896]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We have, however, identified that 146 individuals applying for the badge have included Jarrow in their address. Between May 2004 and 3 October 2008 over 661,000 HM armed forces veterans' badges have been issued.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of servicemen and women leaving the armed forces in each of the last five years for which figures are available had completed *(a)* 22 years' service and *(b)* fewer than five years' service. [225023]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The percentage of service personnel leaving the trained UK regular forces in each of the last five years by length of service is provided in the following table:

Percentage

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-06*
All services					
Fewer than 5 years service	34	34	30	[1]29	[1]26
5 to 21 years service	40	40	40	[1]43	[1]51
22+ years service	27	26	30	[1]28	[1]23

[1] Provisional. Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, all service flow statistics for financial year 2006-07 and 2007-08 are provisional and subject to review.

Notes:
1. Figures show outflow from UK regular forces including recalled reservists on release and outflow to the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment. The Royal Irish Regiment disbanded on 31 March 2008.
2. Percentages are calculated from unrounded data and may not sum to 100.

Helicopters: Finance

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual running cost was of *(a)* HMS Illustrious and HMS Ark Royal, *(b)* one Harrier GR9, *(c)* HMS Albion, *(d)* one Lynx Mk 8 helicopter, *(e)* one Merlin Mk1 helicopter and *(f)* one RFA support tanker in each of the last three years. [225079]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held in the format requested. The annual running cost in 2007-08 for the surface ships identified, including depreciation and the cost of capital, was as follows:

	Financial year 2007-08 (£ million)
HMS Illustrious and HMS Ark Royal	[1]138
HMS Albion	38
RFA Wave Knight (support tanker)	16

[1] Total for the two ships.

Directly comparable figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are not available.

The total cost per flying hour for the aircraft was as follows:

£

Financial year	*Harrier*[1]	*Lynx*[2]	*Merlin Mk1*
2005-06	36,000	16,000	[3]—
2006-07	37,000	16,000	40,000
2007-08	38,000	19,000	42,000

[1] The available data is not spilt between Harrier GR7 and GR9
[2] The available data is not split between Lynx Mk3 and Lynx Mk8
[3] Directly comparable figures for this year are not available

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals for national events to mark the bravery of UK personnel who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. [226212]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The enormous courage and bravery displayed by the men and women of the armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan is recognised in many ways. For example, returning personnel are often involved in local homecoming parades which are widely reported in the media. At a national level, we recognise the contribution and the sacrifices made by the armed forces at events such as Remembrance Sunday. In addition, the announcement of the six monthly operational honours list of gallantry awards, mostly to those serving in these two operational theatres and who have undertaken acts of particular bravery, are given a high profile.

It is usual for the end of significant operations to be marked in some way, and while we have no specific plans at present, this will be considered when the time is right in the case of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sea Harrier FA2: Finance

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual running costs were for one Sea Harrier FA2 in each of the last three years before it was withdrawn from service; and how much was spent on manning in each year. [225080]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information is not available in the format requested. Operating costs for the Sea Harrier FA2 were calculated on an hourly basis only. These costs include both the fixed and marginal costs incurred in using the assets, comprising servicing costs, fuel costs, crew capitation and training costs, support costs and charges for capital and depreciation.

The cost per funded flying hour for the Sea Harrier FA2 is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Total cost per funded flying hour (£)*
2003-04	44,000
2004-05	45,000
2005-06	46,000

Manning costs are included in the hourly operating cost, but are not discreetly recorded.

Stress

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements his Department has in place to assist officials to overcome the effects of stress experienced in the workplace. [222174]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD is committed to protecting the health, safety and well-being of its employees and has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work. A stress management framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards, is available to all employees and gives easy to use advice on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

Our Intranet Web Portal complements this with a page dedicated to health promotion which carries specific advice to employees on how to reduce stress. Responsibility for identification of the factors leading to stress rests with business areas, and line managers within these areas are required to use risk assessment to adapt the culture of their business and reduce stress levels. We provide specific training on managing stress and recognising stress in others and have published a guide for line managers, which includes reference to work/life balance issues including long hours, taking work home and recognising and managing stress. The Guide includes Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development indicators for identifying stress. All of this promotes good management practices and actively encourages a positive approach to life at work and at home.

Confidential support for employees affected by stress caused by either work or external factors is also available through the MOD Occupational Welfare Service. This includes "signposting" to external agencies where appropriate. Special arrangements are in place to provide psychological support to any civilian employee affected by post-traumatic stress following deployment in support of operations with the armed forces.

In cases of sickness absence for stress-related illnesses, MOD policy is to make an early referral to our occupational health providers. Outcomes include rehabilitation plans allowing a phased return to work so that employees can adjust gradually to their normal work pattern. We also actively encourage the use of return to work interviews and keeping in touch schemes for staff on long-term sickness absence.

Type-45 Destroyer: Finance

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what he estimates the annual running costs, including manning costs, will be for a Type-45 Destroyer. [225081]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The annual running costs for the Type 45 destroyers have yet to be fully determined and it is departmental policy not to publish such costs until they have been approved in the Main Gate Business Case, which we expect to be early next year.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Amphibians: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department is undertaking into the effect of habitat destruction and climate change on European amphibians, with particular reference to common toads; and if he will make a statement. [225437]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA is not undertaking any specific research in these areas itself.

Natural England, the Government's statutory advisor on nature conservation, believes there is already a good evidence base relating to the loss of amphibian habitat, such as the 1996 Lowland Pond Survey. As a consequence ponds were added to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) as a priority habitat in 2007. Four species of amphibian, including the common toad, are UK BAP priority species and included in the Section 41 list of species of principal importance in England.

Natural England contributes expertise on amphibians to the work of the Amphibian Conservation Research Trust which is funding a project addressing the impacts of climate change.

Bees: Pesticides

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has commissioned or supported into the effects of pesticide use upon the bee population; and whether he has given consideration to banning any pesticide that is harmful to bee colonies. [225435]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The rigorous EU scientific process for approval of pesticide active substances and the supporting national processes for individual products protect human health and the environment, including wildlife, providing products are used in accordance with the approval and any related conditions of approval. This approval process takes account of the potential impact on bees. My Department will, of course, act immediately on any concrete evidence of adverse impacts of pesticides on bees which occurs in the UK.

As part of its pesticides research programme the Government are funding a number of projects in support of the development of this risk assessment process. A number of projects specifically relate to the potential impact of pesticides on honeybees, both from wide scale professional use and home-garden use of insecticides. These projects are still in progress.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will extend the bluetongue protection zone to Shropshire. [221816]

Jane Kennedy: The Bluetongue protection zone was rolled out to parts of Shropshire on 28 July, and to the rest of Shropshire on 7 August.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were destroyed because of contracting bovine tuberculosis in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of paying compensation to the farmers so affected in each year. [225750]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* The number of animals slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis control measures in Great Britain in the last five years, and the amounts of compensation paid, are given in the following table:

	Number of animals slaughtered under bovine TB control measures	*Amount of compensation paid (£ million)*
2007	28,200	30
2006	22,282	28
2005	30,093	43

	Number of animals slaughtered under bovine TB control measures	*Amount of compensation paid (£ million)*
2004	23,064	34
2003	23,821	38

Bovine Tuberculosis: Wales

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on their tuberculosis health check programme. [225540]

Jane Kennedy: Responsibility for bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is fully devolved and bTB policy in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly.

However officials in my Department are in regular contact with those in the Welsh Assembly Government on bTB-related matters.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of the organisations that were originally proposed to be included in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme will now no longer be included as a consequence of the qualifying threshold being doubled from 3,000 to 6,000 megawatt hours of annual electricity consumption; [222335]

(2) what proportion of *(a)* Government departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies will be included in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme. [222336]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The threshold for electricity consumption through half hourly meters was increased from 3,000 to 6,000 megawatt hours (MWh) per annum in order to help ensure that participants who are large energy consumers see net benefits from the scheme in reduced energy bills if they act to reduce their energy consumption.

It is estimated that the 6,000 MWh threshold will include 95 per cent. of the emissions that would be covered by the 3,000 MWh threshold. It is difficult to assess accurately the number of organisations that this relates to because of the lack of accurate energy consumption data aggregated to organisation level (for example, organisations and their subsidiaries may have several electricity suppliers). The number of organisations at a 6,000 MWh threshold may not be substantially different from that at 3,000 MWh, and is thought to be at the high end of a wide range of 2,000-5,000. The analysis demonstrating the range of estimates made can be seen in the partial regulatory impact assessment (RIA), published on 6 July 2007. This is available to view on DEFRA's website.

All central Government Departments, irrespective of whether they meet the qualification threshold, will participate in the carbon reduction commitment (CRC).

In general, Government Departments and their statutory delivery bodies will participate in CRC as separate entities where they meet the qualifying threshold. However, those Government sponsored bodies that do not have separate legal status will participate under their parent Government Department—in practice this generally means executive agencies and possibly some smaller advisory/tribunal non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).

We will not know exactly what proportion of executive agencies and NDPBs will be included in CRC until the formal registration process for the scheme is under way in 2009.

Carbon Sequestration: Brazil

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Brazil on the inclusion of provisions on carbon capture and storage in the Kyoto Clean Development Mechanism; and if he will make a statement. [225006]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State has not yet had any meetings with the Government of Brazil on the subject of carbon capture and storage (CCS). General discussions on the potential for CCS and possible approaches to financing, including the Clean Development Mechanism, have taken place at official level.

Carbon Trust

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Carbon Trust is covered by the provisions and obligations of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. [222856]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Bodies specified as subject to the Freedom of Information Act (in schedule 1 to the Act) are thereby also subject to the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs). But, this apart, there is no definitive list of organisations covered by the EIRs. All bodies which carry out functions of public administration and bodies that are under the control of a public authority and have responsibilities, exercise functions or provide public services relating to the environment are covered by the EIRs organisations must therefore come to their own view as to whether they or some of the functions they exercise are covered, seeking individual advice from DEFRA as necessary.

The Carbon Trust is not included in schedule 1 of FOIA. Moreover the Carbon Trust and DEFRA's view is that the Carbon Trust is an independent private company limited by guarantee and not a public sector organisation. The Carbon Trust does not fall within the definition of a 'public authority' for the purposes of the Environmental Information Regulations. It is not a 'public authority' for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and it does not carry out statutory or administrative functions but uses its government funding in its own programmes to achieve its mission of accelerating the move to a low carbon economy; nor is it controlled by any body which is a public authority for the purpose of the regulations.

However, the Carbon Trust has achieved ISO 14001 accreditation and publishes an annual environmental report on its own environmental impacts, together with information about its businesses and the impact of those businesses in terms of CO_2 emission reductions,

in its annual report and accounts. It has obtained independent assurance of the application of its impact assessment methodology. The Carbon Trust annual report and accounts for 2007-08 was published in September.

Any dispute about such coverage is subject to appeal under the enforcement provisions of the regulations.

Coastal Areas

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans the Environment Agency has to draw up proposals for parts of the British coastline to be surrendered to sea erosion; in which parts of the UK; and if he will make a statement. [226375]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency already has strategic Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) for the coastline of England and Wales. These identify the flood and coastal risk management policies around the coast in order for the coast to be managed in a sustainable way. They are a strategic, evidence based approach to planning investment and ensuring the security of as much of the coastline as possible for the next 100 years. These policies include maintaining the existing line of defence or realigning the coast either through natural or managed processes.

The Environment Agency is also developing a long-term investment strategy for flood and coastal erosion which will look at what the risk is, how to manage it and what it will cost over the next 25 years.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government Departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul flights. [221930]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The air mileage used to calculate DEFRA's payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in 2005-06 was 6,043,505. This figure includes DEFRA's agencies State Veterinary Service (SVS), Government Decontamination Service (GDS), and the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA). Records at this time did not distinguish between domestic, short-haul and long-haul categories.

Figures for 2006-07 are detailed in the following table, broken down into the categories requested, and also include SVS/Animal Health, GDS and MFA.

	Mileage
Domestic	50,422
Short-haul	503,575
Long-haul	2,124,031
Unknown	3,101,211
Total	5,779,239

Figures for 2007-08 are currently being compiled.

DEFRA also offsets its rail travel by contributing to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. Mileage offset in 2006-07 was 3,709,435.48.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether those staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [221937]

Jonathan Shaw: Departmental staff entitled to business class or first class travel are permitted to travel in a cheaper class without benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving.

Departmental Procurement

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [221933]

Jonathan Shaw: I will place in the Library the names of each organisation that supplied goods and services to the core-Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the core-Department's financial database. However, these organisations comprise a mixture of companies and sole traders and it would be a disproportionate cost to separate out the addresses of companies from those of individuals sufficient and necessary to ensure DEFRA that complies with its obligations under the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

Domestic Waste: Recycling

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the annual average time taken by households to sort domestic rubbish so that it may be recycled; and if he will make a statement. [225266]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimate has been made by DEFRA.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities *(a)* are considering, *(b)* are piloting, *(c)* are planning to move to and *(d)* have moved to household waste collections where residual rubbish is collected (i) once every three weeks and (ii) once every month, according to records held by (A) his Department and (B) the Waste and Resources Action Programme; and what guidance or support has been produced on the issue. [224618]

Jane Kennedy: Neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) hold any records on the information requested. However, neither body is aware of any local authority in this position.

Neither DEFRA nor WRAP has produced any guidance or provided any support on this issue.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether funding from the Waste and Resources Action Programme's local communications fund has been used to support the introduction of fortnightly rubbish collections. [225543]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action Programme's Behaviour Change Local Fund (BCLF) was designed to increase public participation in recycling and composting services by supporting communications and awareness raising activities carried out by the partner local authorities. BCLF funding has been awarded to a large number of local authorities, running a variety of waste collection schemes. In each case, the purpose was to support the local authority's communication of its strategy for improving recycling rates. What this strategy was in each case, and whether or not it involved the introduction of alternate weekly collection of residual waste, was a matter for the local authority to decide.

Environment Agency: Pumps

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the Environment Agency's review of the efficiency of its pumps; what actions were recommended in the review; what estimate has been made of the potential *(a)* carbon dioxide emission reductions and *(b)* costs arising; what progress has been made to date in implementing the review's recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [222990]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Environment Agency has worked with the Carbon Trust to undertake a review of the energy efficiency of a sample of flood risk management pumping stations. A report has been published and is available on the Environment Agency's website.

The report identifies opportunities for energy reduction, quantifies the likely savings in carbon dioxide and identifies the cost of implementing various technical options. The Environment Agency will consider the report as it takes measures to further reduce energy use relating to pumping. However it will take time to assess the options, understand the costs and plan the work at all pumping sites.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account will be taken of representations received on the consultation on restructuring of inland drainage boards in formulating policy on their future structure. [224627]

Jane Kennedy: The internal drainage boards sub catchment review was not a formal consultation, but a direction of travel proposed following an independent report produced in 2006. The independent report outlined the strengths and weaknesses of the current performance of internal drainage boards and made recommendations for future improvements. Currently all representations have either been accepted or are under review with relevant internal drainage boards.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken to *(a)* clear ditches, *(b)* widen and deepen drainage channels and *(c)* create holding areas for surplus water in periods of heavy rain in the last 12 months. [224936]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards have all undertaken extensive maintenance operations and capital construction schemes in the past 12 months to secure the efficient working of existing channels and to reduce flood risk through flood alleviation schemes.

Holding areas are one of the many techniques known as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. Developers are encouraged to incorporate such systems into new developments. Many Environment Agency flood alleviation schemes also incorporate these techniques in preference to more traditional channel enlargement options.

Floods

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the number of *(a)* households, *(b)* deprived households and *(c)* rural households at risk from flooding, broken down by local authority area. [224219]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The National Flood Risk Assessment undertaken in 2006 by the Environment Agency identified the number of properties in areas that are at risk from flooding across England and Wales. These data were broken down by each local authority. The number of deprived households or rural households at risk in each local authority area was not assessed as part of this work. The flood risk in areas of deprivation was, however, considered in the Environment Agency's research project "Addressing Environmental Inequalities: Flood Risk" published in March 2006.

Floods: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what hydrological studies the Environment Agency has initiated to assess future flood risk in Bassetlaw constituency; and when the reports of such studies will be completed. [224442]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* Following the flooding of June 2007 the Environment Agency commissioned consultants to produce reports about the events that occurred in Worksop and Retford.

Both reports will be used to aid the Environment Agency's understanding of the possible improvements to flood defences on the River Ryton in Worksop and to the Retford Beck in Retford. The Environment Agency has completed the report for Worksop. The study for the Retford Beck will start soon and is due to be completed by the end of March 2009.

In addition to the studies of potential works to reduce flood risk, the Environment Agency has carried out the following mapping studies, which include hydrological analyses, within the Bassetlaw constituency:

River Idle Flood Risk Mapping, March 2005

River Maun, Strategic Flood Risk Mapping, March 2007
River Meden, Strategic Flood Risk Mapping, June 2008
River Ryton, Strategic Flood Risk Mapping, March 2008
Tidal Trent Strategy, April 2005
Laneham Beck Strategic Flood Risk Mapping, 2007

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment the Environment Agency has made of the size and condition of pumping stations in Bassetlaw constituency. [224589]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency operates and maintains two pumping stations in Bassetlaw, at West Stockwith and at Beckingham.

All Environment Agency pumps at both West Stockwith and Beckingham are currently monitored on a daily basis, fully maintained and are operational.

Floods: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet the hon. Member for Castle Point and a delegation from the Canvey Island Town Council to discuss the effects on Canvey Island of the Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2100 proposals. [224487]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Environment (Hilary Benn) or I would be happy to meet with the hon. Member for Castle Point and I will ensure a meeting is arranged.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with other Departments on the likely effects of the Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2100 scheme on Canvey Island's *(a)* public safety and *(b)* proposed levels of future building. [225149]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* Discussions regarding the Thames Estuary 2100 (TS2100) project have been held with the Department for Communities and Local Government through the Thames High Level Steering Group. The Environment Agency's TE2100 project recommends that flood risk is managed to keep pace with rising seas caused by climate change. This work is being undertaken at a strategic level and detailed discussions of public safety on Canvey Island have not yet taken place. Any proposals arising from the TE2100 project will fully address public safety.

Future development on Canvey Island is not a factor that the TE2100 Project has been tasked to consider; this is a matter that the local planning authority will address in drawing up their local development framework. Any future development will need to be strategically assessed for flood risk and therefore in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 25.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what area of land on Canvey Island is being considered for flooding under the Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2100 scheme. [225150]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) project is considering the creation of new inter-tidal habitat on West Canvey Marshes. This is in response to the need to replace the inter-tidal habitats (laid down in the EU habitats directive) that will be lost around Canvey Island as sea levels rise.

This habitat creation would involve a controlled breach of existing flood defences to create new inter-tidal areas. If consultation demonstrated support for such a scheme a new flood defence would need to be constructed to protect people and property. This defence would ensure flood risk is managed to keep pace with rising sea levels.

The TE2100 project is still in development and there will be opportunities for representations on the final recommendations when the draft plan goes to consultation in spring 2009.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on the likely effects of the Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2100 scheme on sites on Canvey Island. [225161]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* There has been on-going dialogue between the Environment Agency and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) throughout the development of the Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) plan.

The Environment Agency and RSPB have agreed to work together to establish the most effective management of inter-tidal and freshwater habitat on both the south and east coast. TE2100 and RSPB jointly recognise that there needs to be a combination of sustainable inter-tidal and freshwater habitat in the Thames Estuary. Discussion specific to West Canvey Marshes is on-going.

The TE2100 project is still in development and there will be opportunities for representations on the final recommendations when the draft plan goes to consultation in spring 2009.

Floods: Crops

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of damage caused to crops during recent floods. [224595]

Jane Kennedy: The 2008 harvest has been one of the wettest on record with rainfall around double normal levels. The main impact has been that the harvest has taken much longer than normal to complete, which is likely to have led to higher labour, fuel and machinery costs, particularly where grain has had to be dried. However, cereal yields are reported to be higher than normal. DEFRA will publish farm income figures by farm type at the end of January 2009 which will show the net impact of the weather and other factors on the incomes of cereal and other cropping farms.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of loss of crops incurred as a result of recent floods. [224812]

Jane Kennedy: While the 2008 harvest was one of the wettest on record, the scale of flooding was not of that seen in 2007 and the overall impact of flooding on arable cropping is not believed to have been significant. DEFRA will publish its first forecast of arable crop production later in October.

Floods: Environment Protection

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure that *(a)* sites of special scientific interest and *(b)* important wildlife habitats are not destroyed by the implementation of Environment Agency plans to flood areas in the Thames estuary. [224626]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency is required by law to protect the environment and promote conservation. The conservation and enhancement of Thames estuary habitats and species are key objectives of the Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) project.

Throughout the development of the TE2100 plan the Environment Agency has been in close dialogue with Natural England to ensure the plan is compliant with UK and EU wildlife legislation. Full details of how the wildlife and species of the Thames estuary have been considered in relation to future flood risk management will be contained in the TE2100 consultation plan due to be launched in spring 2009.

Floods: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of draining systems serving *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in (i) Castle Point and (ii) Canvey Island are privately owned. [224613]

Jane Kennedy: Defra does not hold information on the proportion of draining systems serving *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in (i) Castle Point and (ii) Canvey Island that are privately owned.

Floods: Inland Waterways

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Natural England on the requirement to clear and widen watercourses to prevent flooding. [224584]

Jane Kennedy: The Secretary of State meets the Chairman of Natural England, Sir Martin Doughty, on a regular basis, and the subject of flooding and sustainable solutions has been discussed in the light of the Government's review of the 2007 floods. I am not aware that the specific topic of a 'requirement to clear and widen watercourses' has arisen. This is a matter for the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards in their byelaws. Natural England has been working with Internal Drainage Boards to produce "The Drainage Channel Biodiversity Manual—integrating wildlife and flood risk management", which was launched at the annual conference and exhibition of the Association of Drainage Authorities on 17 and 18 September.

Floods: Insurance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial support his Department provides to households to assist with measures required to become eligible for flood insurance cover. [222508]

Jane Kennedy: Currently there is no Government grant scheme offering assistance to those wishing to install property-level resistance and resilience measures.

On 30 July 2008 Defra launched a consultation on options to increase the use of property-level measures to mitigate the impacts of flooding for homes that have a high chance of flooding every year. The consultation builds on the grants pilot scheme that Defra recently completed.

Under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002, local authorities have some flexibility in providing discretionary assistance for repairs and adaptations. It is for local authorities to decide the circumstances in which to give discretionary assistance and what form that assistance may take (e.g. grants, loans, equity release schemes etc.)

Floods: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Environment Agency has made of the likelihood of flooding at North Leverton and North Wheatley primary schools. [224588]

Jane Kennedy: The responsibility for carrying out flood risk assessments for North Leverton and North Wheatley primary schools lies with the education authority and local authority.

The Environment Agency was contacted in July 2007 by MHI Design requesting flood risk information on a number of school sites including North Leverton and North Wheatley. The Environment Agency recommended that robust flood protection measures should be incorporated into any refurbishment of either school, if refurbishment was deemed to be the way forward by the education authority and local authority.

MHI Design subsequently submitted a Simple Flood Risk Assessment and Evacuation Plan for temporary accommodation for North Wheatley primary school, to which the Environment Agency had no objection.

Floods: Warnings

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of procedures for flood warnings. [224886]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency undertakes regular post flood incident surveys and performance reviews. During the summer 2007 floods, over 80 per cent. of the warnings issued provided at least two hours advance warning. This commitment is stated within the Environment Agency's customer chapter.

The Environment Agency continues to make appropriate investments to improve its flood warning services so that flood warnings will be given in good time to ensure they are acted upon and damage minimised.

Floods: Worksop

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment the Environment Agency has made of the flooding risk in Worksop. [224590]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency has recently completed a flood risk feasibility report for Worksop. The report looked at the possible use of storage areas for flood water upstream of Worksop as well as flood walls and banks through the town.

Fly Tipping: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much funding his Department received for the detection and prosecution of fly tipping in each year from 2002 to 2008; and what funding is planned for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [224327]

(2) what proportion of revenue from landfill tax was allocated to the Environment Agency for the detection and prosecution of fly tipping in each year from 2002 to 2008; and what proportion is planned for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [224328]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The Environment Agency received £2 million per year from 2005-08 under the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme funded by Landfill Tax receipts to tackle illegal waste activity. The focus of these projects was to reduce the level of illegal dumping and improve the detection of offenders.

This programme has been extended and is now funded through the Resource Efficiency and Carbon Programme £1.5 million has been allocated for 2008-09 and 2009-10. Funding for 2010-11 has yet to be determined.

Food Supply

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent changes have been made to his Department's strategy on security of food supply within the UK; and what factors prompted such changes. [224523]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the discussion paper published in July entitled 'Ensuring the UK's Food Security in a Changing World' which described the current trends, and set out the challenges facing the food supply chain in the future, including high energy prices, poor harvests, rising demand, the use of biofuels and export bans.

No recent changes have been made to the Department's strategy on UK food security. However, DEFRA is currently consulting on the questions raised in July's paper. We will publish the results of the consultation and the Government response in due course.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the results of the consultation upon food security are expected to be published; and when the Government expects to make a response. [225536]

Jane Kennedy: In July 2008 DEFRA published a discussion paper entitled 'Ensuring the UK's Food Security in a Changing World' which described the trends leading to the current global situation, set out the challenges facing the food supply chain in the future, and discussed whether the UK food supply chain is sufficiently resilient to withstand short-term shocks and longer-term challenges. Its purpose was to encourage public debate on what more needs to be done with relation to food security in the UK and the rest of the world. DEFRA is currently engaging with stakeholders on the questions raised in July's paper. It is intended to publish initial conclusions before the end of the year.

Food: Imports

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of food consumed in the UK in the last period for which figures are available had been imported; what information he holds on the land area used to produce this food; and if he will make a statement. [226579]

Jane Kennedy: In 2006, 51 per cent. of food consumed in the UK was imported to the UK. This is based on the value of unprocessed food. The UK imports food from a diversity of countries in Europe and around the world, with a variety of production systems and land requirements.

Food: Land

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much farming land in the UK was not used for food production in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [226580]

Jane Kennedy: Results from the UK June surveys of agriculture showed that the total area of agricultural land not used for food production in 2008 was 1.2 million hectares. This accounts for 7.0 per cent. of the total area of land on agricultural holdings. Results are provisional and will be revised in December 2008.

	Thousand hectares
	2008
Bare fallow/arable land not in production	198.6
Area of industrial crops (miscanthus, short rotation coppice, linseed, borage)[1,2]	34.1
Hardy Nursery Stock, bulbs and flowers grown in the open[3]	12.8
Farm woodland	677.0
Land not used for agriculture (e.g. ponds, roads, buildings etc.)	287.9
Total area not used for food production	1,210.4
Total area of land on agricultural holdings	17,323.4

[1] Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and borage areas are for England only.
[2] Food crops which can be grown for non-food purposes (e.g. oilseed rape for bio-energy) are not collected separately in these surveys so are included in the main crop area.
[3] 2007 data as 2008 results will not be available until December 2008.

Food: Prices

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on food prices of the European Commission's amendment to Regulation 91/4/14. [224493]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* In May 2008 the Pesticides Safety Directorate published an assessment of the agronomic impact of the restrictions set out in the Commission Proposals. This has recently been developed into an economic assessment by Sean Rickard, Senior Lecturer in Business Economics at Cranfield University School of Management, which is available at the Cranfield university website.

Grasslands: Nature Conservation

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1473W, what area of *(a)* lowland heathland and *(b)* acid grassland restoration has been undertaken by (i) Forestry Commission England, (ii) other Government departments and (iii) non-governmental organisations; and in which geographical areas this restoration has taken place. [225133]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested is as follows:

(i) Forestry Commission England

Lowland heathland and dry acid grassland on the Forestry Commission estate in England: restoration from woods and forests to April 2008

ha

Forest district	*(a) Lowland heathland restoration since 1990*	*(b) Lowland dry acid grassland restoration since 2004*[1]
New Forest	1,284	32
East Anglia	628	0.4
Sherwood and Lines	235	0
South-east England	130	3
Peninsula	95	0.2
West midlands	64	0
Forest of Dean	45	0
North York Moors	56	0
Total	2,537	36

[1] FC only started recording lowland dry acid grassland in the database in 2004.

(ii) Other Government Departments

The only figures available to DEFRA are for Natural England through the Environmental Stewardship Scheme data (in particular higher level stewardship).

(a) 11,664 ha are currently under options to improve or restore lowland heathland in the higher level scheme (which has run since 2005). A regional breakdown of this figure is presented in the following table. A further 865 ha has also been improved or restored in Hampshire through Natural England's Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund over the last three years.

ha

Region	*Area of lowland heathland under restoration options in HLS*
East midlands	190.91
East of England	726.96
London	47.59
North-east	114.13
North-west	354.23
South-east	6,032.44
South-west	4,008.57
West midlands	142.18
Yorkshire and the Humber	47.29
Total	11,664.30

Source:
Natural England

(b) 744 ha are currently under options to restore or recreate lowland dry acid grassland in the Higher Level Scheme since 2005. There is no regional breakdown of this figure currently available. A further 125 ha have also been improved or restored in Hampshire, Nottinghamshire and Durham through Natural England's Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund over the last three years.

(iii) Non-governmental organisations

The Government currently do not have details on the combined contributions of non-governmental organisations towards the delivery of the habitat restoration targets. Estimates of progress towards the delivery of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets, incorporating information from a range of sources and stakeholders, will be available in early 2009 following completion of the 2008 BAP reporting round.

Ivory

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the ivory trade; and if he will make a statement. [225983]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The global ban on international commercial trade in ivory remains firmly in place. The UK fully supports this and is absolutely clear that illegal and unsustainable trade in ivory should not be permitted.

However, we draw a distinction between one-off sales of ivory which is legally held by governments, for the benefit of their wildlife conservation programmes, and a general return to commercial trading in ivory, where we are not convinced that current conditions will ensure proper protection for elephants.

Landfill: Recycling

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for the recovery of plastics and other waste material from closed landfill sites for the purposes of recycling; and if he will make a statement [224060]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The Government have no plans to recover plastics and other materials from closed landfills for recycling. However,

the Government aim to reduce the amount of waste entering landfills by encouraging waste prevention, re-use and recycling.

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will amend regulations relating to fallen stock to better facilitate their swift disposal. [224809]

Jane Kennedy: The EU Animal By-Products Regulation (1774/2002) requires fallen stock to be disposed of without undue delay by rendering or incineration and there is a good service in place through the National Fallen Stock Scheme which ensures fallen stock are collected for disposal speedily and safely.

National Rights of Way Casework Team

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the performance of the National Rights of Way Casework Team against its targets for reviewing representations. [224639]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Defra regularly reviews the performance of the National Rights of Way Casework Team and has recently acknowledged that the new transport work for the Department for Transport being carried out by the Government office north east is having an impact on the rights of way casework. Officials are discussing, with Government office north east, the problems of meeting targets for the issuing of decisions on Schedule 14 appeals and what needs to be done to ensure the level of service is improved.

National Rights of Way Casework Team

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has given to *(a)* the National Rights of Way Casework Team and *(b)* surveying authorities on how to determine whether modifications to the definitive map of rights of way have been made as soon as reasonably practicable. [224641]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Section 53(2)(a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 requires modifications to the definitive map and statement, the legal record of all rights of way to be made, "as soon as reasonably practicable". Defra has issued no guidance as to what timeframe "as soon as reasonably practicable" constitutes, as every case will be judged by individual circumstances. If a person believes that a highway authority is not fulfilling its duties under section 53(2), he can challenge its actions through the local government ombudsman, who has the power to investigate complaints of maladministration.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people are assigned to the National Rights of Way Casework Team. [224642]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are three people who work full time and one person who works part time on the National Rights of Way Casework Team.

Nature Conservation: Crime

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many appeals have been made to him under Schedule 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; how many appeals have been allowed; what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average time taken for a decision to be issued is; and what the longest time an appeal has remained without the issue of a decision is. [224640]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Prior to the establishment of the National Rights of Way Casework team in July 2005, work was carried out under Schedule 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by the regional Government offices. There are no detailed central records of the Schedule 14 work carried out by those offices and the information requested could be gathered only at a disproportionate cost. However, as a guide a report estimated that the regional Government offices collectively received between 50 and 70 Schedule 14 appeals every year prior to 2005. Since 2005, the National Rights of Way Casework team has determined 150 appeals, of which 76 have been upheld. The additional information on appeal handling times can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding he has made available to assist farmers to comply with nitrate vulnerable zones. [224649]

Jane Kennedy: There are a number of potential existing sources of financial support available to farmers which could help with implementation of the revised Action Programme for nitrate vulnerable zones. For example, the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative is providing grants for farmers with land in a priority catchment for a range of capital items including roofs for slurry stores and improving yard drainage (clean and foul water separation). There have been two rounds of applications for these grants since April 2007. Subject to funding being available we expect there will be further rounds.

Funding is also available for a range of activities under the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13. The socio-economic elements of this programme are the responsibility of the regional development agencies (RDAs). Individual regional implementation plans set out objectives and priorities for these socio-economic elements and may include support to help farmers meet the requirements of the Nitrates Action Programme.

As part of this funding we have also asked RDAs to use voluntary modulation receipts, amounting to £98 million at current exchange rates over the lifetime of the programme, specifically to address priorities in the livestock industry including providing support for farmers in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of on-farm management of nutrients.

Furthermore, slurry storage facilities are eligible for plant and machinery allowances such as the new annual investment allowance, capped at £50,000 per year, included in this year's Finance Bill. Slurry pits also qualify for allowances in their own right under the Capital Allowances Act 2001.

Office of Climate Change

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what work the Office of Climate Change has undertaken; and what further work is planned. [222405]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Office of Climate Change has undertaken work in the following areas:

Draft Climate Change Bill
Analytical audit
Standards for voluntary offsetting
EU Emissions Trading Scheme review project
Household emissions
Heat
Carbon budgets
Adaptation finance

Currently the Office of Climate Change is working in the following areas:

Climate change governance and delivery
Global carbon finance
Global technology project
Global carbon markets
Shadow Committee on Climate Change
Stern team
Eliasch Review

Further information about its work can be found on its website.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1528W, on the Office of Climate Change, what progress the Office has made in *(a)* developing policy options for reducing emissions from heating and cooling of buildings, *(b)* its assessment of the UK's institutional arrangements and their ability to support domestic climate change goals and *(c)* its assessment of the global carbon finance flows required to support developing countries in moving towards low carbon economies. [222518]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

(a) The heating and cooling project looked at how carbon emissions can be reduced from heating and cooling across industrial, commercial and domestic sectors. Following this, the Department for Business, Energy and Regulatory Reform, along with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Communities and Local Government, undertook a call for evidence from January 2008 to 31 March 2008 and analysis of the findings are now underway.

(b) The Office of Climate Change has established strengthened capacity for supporting the programme management across government of both domestic and international climate change goals.

(c) The Office of Climate Change has made good progress with its model of global carbon finance flows. Some results were presented at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change COP 13 in Bali at a UK side event and the material can be found on the office's website.

Plastic Bags: Voluntary Work

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, of 22 August, transferred from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (reference: CMS 101711), on charity shops re-using carrier bags. [225990]

Jane Kennedy: Policy officials have looked into the matter raised in this letter. A response is now being drafted and will be issued shortly.

Primates: Pets

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pet primates have been recorded in the UK through licences issued under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 since 2000 [225077]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This information is not held centrally. The administration and enforcement of the licensing regime under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 is the responsibility of local authorities.

Recycling: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes there have been to the levels of household recycling in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Plymouth and *(c)* Torbay since 1997. [225372]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the percentage of household waste that was sent for recycling or composting by Devon county council, Plymouth city council and Torbay council since 1997.

These figures were reported to the Audit Commission by local authorities under the Best Value Performance regime. There have been some changes in the definitions of the waste indicators over time which affect the comparability of data, particularly prior to 2001.

	Devon county council	*Plymouth city council*	*Torbay council*
1997-98	17.00	[1]	[1]
1998-99	20.20	11.90	15.82
1999-2000	31.00	15.00	21.00
2000-01	19.79	21.17	[1]
2001-02	20.52	12.00	20.84
2002-03	22.18	13.65	20.11
2003-04	26.70	15.36	20.69
2004-05	32.70	16.09	21.93
2005-06	40.59	22.41	25.62

	Devon county council	*Plymouth city council*	*Torbay council*
2006-07	45.80	26.86	26.06
2007-08[2]	47.06	31.18	28.08

[1] No data available.
[2] Figures for 2007-08 are provisional and subject to audit.
Note:
From 2006-07 BVPIs have been reported via WasteDataFlow

Recycling: Waste Management

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage businesses to divert waste from landfill to recycling. [225011]

Jane Kennedy: The Government's Waste Strategy Annual Progress Report, published on 10 July 2008, presents an overview of progress made in the last year on the actions set out in the Waste Strategy for England 2007. The report shows how the Government are taking forward actions to reduce waste, including encouraging businesses to divert waste from landfill to recycling. Furthermore, since the Waste Strategy was published, we have been engaging with key waste stakeholders on priorities for commercial and industrial waste reduction. We aim to publish a further statement of our strategic aims in this area in the new year.

The Waste Strategy announced an increase in the landfill tax escalator to provide greater incentives to business to reduce, re-use and recycle waste. The scheduled £8 per tonne landfill tax escalator came into effect from April 2008.

In order to help businesses reduce waste and disposal and other costs, the Government are funding a range of business support. The aim is to change behaviours amongst businesses by raising awareness and understanding of the value and importance of recycling and waste prevention, and to develop solutions. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) and other delivery bodies aim to achieve significant amounts of business waste recycling and reduction. For example in 2008-09, NISP is looking to help divert 750 kilotons of waste from landfill, in addition to a number of other important environmental and business benefits.

The Government are simplifying the regulatory system through waste protocols to clarify when waste ceases to be waste, and so is no longer subject to regulation. As a result, businesses are increasingly able to recycle materials that would previously have been sent to landfill. Early indications suggest that over the next 10 years, Waste Protocols could encourage the recovery and reuse of 17 million tonnes of materials, potentially adding close to £700 million to the economy and reducing CO_2 emissions by 1.5 million tonnes.

Additionally, the London Waste and Recycling Board is a new statutory Board which has been set up to bring together the Mayor, the boroughs and others involved in managing the capital's waste, with the key aims of boosting London's recycling rates and reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill. The board is funded by £60 million from DEFRA (for three years) and £24 million from the LDA (for four years). The board is chaired by Boris Johnson and he has reiterated how he wants London's recycling rates, both in the business and domestic sector, to increase dramatically.

Finally, the Waste Strategy set out the vital role of local government and regional bodies in providing advice and services to businesses and developing partnership working. The Government are supporting the development of this wider role by funding pilot initiatives by local authorities and supporting the provision and dissemination of guidance and best practice. Furthermore, the Government are encouraging local authorities to consider non-municipal waste when planning facilities for municipal waste.

River Lymington: Ferries

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what measures he is taking to ensure that regulators involved in determining Wightlink's application for shore works on the Lymington River co-ordinate their separate responsibilities to ensure full compliance with the EU Habitats Directive is achieved; and if he will make a statement; [225981]

(2) when he plans to respond to the letters of *(a)* 5 September and *(b)* 19 September from the hon. Member for New Forest West on the future of the Lymington River; [225982]

(3) what assessment he has made of the request by New Forest District Council that the application by Wightlink for shore works in the Lymington River be the subject of a full environmental impact assessment; and if he will make a statement. [226574]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Marine and Fisheries Agency is responsible for determining the application for shore works on the Lymington river under the Food and Environment Protection Act. However, its focus is the deposition of materials in the sea. The delays in determining the decision are as a result of ongoing discussions over the environmental impacts of the ferry operations. There are many regulators involved in this wider project, including Lymington Harbour Commissioners, New Forest district council, Natural England and the Environment Agency. DEFRA is one of the parties involved in the process of establishing who is responsible for regulating the ferry operations in this area, and is aware that a number of related environmental issues need to be considered, potentially with an environmental impact assessment. The Government office south-east will also be expected to play an independent role in resolving the situation.

The Minister for the Natural and Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs plans to respond to previous letters sent in September as soon as possible.

Rural Payments Agency

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions legal proceedings resulting in a court hearing have been initiated against the Rural Payments Agency since the Agency's establishment; and if he will make a statement. [225008]

Jane Kennedy: There have been eight cases brought against the Rural Payments Agency resulting in a court decision, of which three were judicial review claims and five were civil claims.

Sewers

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timescale is for the transfer of all private sewers and lateral drains that drain to the public sewer to the ownership and responsibility of water and sewerage companies; and if he will make a statement. [225317]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend (Mr. Woolas) on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1942W.

Sewers: Lancashire

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with United Utilities on sewage works in Fleetwood and Wyre. [224650]

Jane Kennedy: None.

Slaughterhouses: Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the proposal of the EU to appoint an animal welfare officer for each slaughterhouse. [225541]

Jane Kennedy: We are currently considering the proposed regulation and will be consulting formally before finalising our policy.

Trapping

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what role the Central Science Laboratory will play in the proposed research into the use of snares. [225716]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The research into the use of snares was put out to open tender and has recently been let. The Central Science Laboratory (CSL) and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust put in a joint bid, with CSL as the lead partner. They were successful in securing the contract. They will therefore be responsible for carrying out the research.

Warm Front Scheme

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to co-ordinate the Warm Front Scheme with existing schemes to fund fuel switching and insulation works offered by utility companies. [222006]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Warm Front has an established history of working with energy suppliers who are looking to achieve their targets under the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) and its predecessor, the energy efficiency commitment. Through these relationships the vast majority of households receiving first time loft or cavity wall insulations through Warm Front have their measures funded through CERT. This provides benefits to the householder by freeing up more of their Warm Front grant allowance for other measures and provides a more joined-up form of delivery.

Waste Disposal: Departmental Responsibilities

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the proposals for the new charges for the collection of household waste within the Climate Change Bill will remain the responsibility of his Department or become the responsibility of the new Department for Energy and Climate Change. [225215]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* I can confirm that responsibility for household waste collection will remain with Defra.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the selection of the local authorities which will pilot charges for the collection of household rubbish. [222861]

Jane Kennedy: Under the powers included in the Climate Change Bill, up to five local authorities in England will be permitted to pilot incentive schemes for encouraging householders to reduce and recycle their waste.

In June, my predecessor, the hon. Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock) wrote to local authorities inviting them to come forward with proposals to pilot a waste incentive pilot scheme, with a deadline of eight weeks after Royal Assent to the Climate Change Bill. Once the powers in the Bill are commenced, the Government will be able to designate up to five local authorities to proceed with pilots. We anticipate that pilots could begin from spring 2009 onwards, though the exact timing will depend on the nature of proposals put forward by authorities.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent to chief executives of local authorities inviting them to participate in the pilots of charges for the collection of household waste. [222864]

Jane Kennedy: I am arranging for copies of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Waste Management

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance he has given to county councils and unitary authorities to develop waste-processing technologies. [225098]

Jane Kennedy: To date over £1.7 billion in private finance initiative (PFI) credits has been committed to 31 local authority waste projects.

Also, for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 DEFRA is making £185 million of grant funding available to local authorities through the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant (WICG) and £60 million through the London Waste and Recycling Fund. These will be paid to upper tier and unitary authorities to enable appropriate infrastructure to be developed in time to help English authorities meet landfill targets.

DEFRA also operates the New Technologies Demonstrator Programme to demonstrate innovative waste treatment technologies as possible alternatives to landfill. Each of the eight sites will have a visitor centre open to representatives from local authorities and the waste sector to enable them to learn more about the particular strengths and weaknesses of each technology.

Waste Management: Industrial Disputes

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect of local government industrial action by municipal refuse collectors in the summer months in areas with fortnightly rubbish collections. [225647]

Jane Kennedy: No such assessment has been made by Defra. It is the local authority's responsibility to assess the impact of industrial action on their services, including waste collection.

Weedkillers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W, on manure, what representations he has received on the withdrawal of the provisional authorisation of aminopyralid. [222382]

Hilary Benn: The first representation relating to withdrawal was received by the Pesticides Safety Directorate's helpline on 25 June 2008. Ten such representations had been received up to 8 September 2008. Ministers have also received around 30 letters which made some reference to withdrawal.

Wildlife: Conservation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to enforce provisions on the protection of endangered species in the UK. [224317]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Primary responsibility for enforcing wildlife legislation rests with the police service and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). DEFRA actively supports their activities through the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW).

DEFRA, together with the Home Office, is the main source of funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)—a police-led, stand-alone, multi-agency unit with the UK-wide remit for Wildlife Crime established in 2006. The unit gathers intelligence on national wildlife crime and provides analytical and investigative support to police and customs officers across the UK.

DEFRA, together with the other relevant Government Departments and enforcement authorities appraises the impact of wildlife crime and sets out the wildlife crime priorities for the NWCU. Current wildlife crime priorities include hen harrier persecution, offences against bats and poaching, among others.

Endangered species listed on annex A to the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) require licences in order to be traded within the UK. Animal Health operate a panel of wildlife inspectors who carry out inspections to ensure that the legislation is complied with; and also have an enforcement team who provide information from its records in support of prosecutions.

Wildlife: Environment Protection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce the harmful effects of pesticides on wildlife. [224979]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The rigorous EU scientific process for approval of pesticide active substances and the supporting national processes for individual products protect human health and the environment, including wildlife, providing products are used in accordance with the approval and any related conditions of approval. My Department is currently considering whether it is necessary to use further powers contained in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to prohibit the possession of certain pesticide ingredients that may be harmful to wildlife.

Monitoring of pesticide poisoning cases is carried out through the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme which investigates any reported cases of suspected pesticide poisoning. Published data from this scheme show that, of those cases where a cause can be attributed to pesticides, the vast majority arise from abuse or misuse.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to address the illegal poisoning of wildlife. [224980]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On 26 July my right hon. Friend the noble Lord Rooker relaunched the Government's renewed Campaign against Illegal Poisoning to protect wild animals from illegal poisoning by pesticides. Over the next three years this will focus on preventing poisoning, educating people against accidental poisoning, and improved detection of poisoning cases.

The National Wildlife Crime Unit is also assessing the extent of illegal poisoning and will make any appropriate recommendations.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1704W, on staff: 10 Downing Street (1), which companies employ the members of

staff working in the Cabinet Office seconded in from outside the Civil Service; and how many employees are seconded by each; [211880]

(2) what the *(a)* job descriptions and *(b)* daily rates of pay are for the agency staff and consultants working in the Cabinet Office; [211881]

(3) what the job titles are of the fee-paid staff; and what daily fees the fee-paid staff are paid; [211882]

(4) how many of the 87 members of FTE staff working in the Cabinet Office not employed by the Civil Service are staff seconded in from outside the Civil Service; [211886]

(5) if he will break down the staff numbers by employment type; [215145]

(6) how many of these staff are paid for by organisations other than the Government; and which organisations pay for them in each case. [215144]

Mr. Watson: Due to the wide ranging and topical nature of Cabinet Office work, we require a flexible resourcing model which allows us to bring in and move out skills and expertise as the business demands. Consequently, we use a mixture of non-permanent employment contracts including secondments from outside the civil service, consultants, fixed term appointments, fee-paid and agency staff.

As at 31 December 2007, there were 87 members of staff (FTE) working in the Cabinet Office who were not employed by the civil service. This figure included staff seconded in from outside the civil service, fee-paid staff, agency staff and consultants but excluded service contractors. The breakdown was as follows:

Employment type	*Number FTEs*
Secondees to Cabinet Office	14.4
Agency staff	30.4
Consultants	22.5
Contractors	8.2
Fee-paid staff	12.2
Total	87.7

All of these staff are paid for by the Cabinet Office.

Complete records of staff working in the Cabinet Office but being paid for by another organisation are not held centrally.

Of the 87 FTE staff not employed by the Cabinet Office, 14.4 FTE staff were seconded-in from outside the civil service, as at 31 December 2007. These are shown as follows:

Secondment organisation	*Number employees (FTE)*
Stanton Marris	1
The Work Foundation	1
SOCA	1
Surrey County Council	1
PricewaterhouseCoopers	1
Macclesfield Council	1
National Centre for Social Research	0.4
Essex Police	1
House of Commons	1
Audit Commission	1
FCO	1
The Bank of England	1
House of Lords	3

Job titles and remuneration details for each person employed in a consultancy, fee paid or agency capacity are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Cabinet: Birmingham

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost was of holding the Cabinet meeting in Birmingham in September 2008. [226622]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 796W.

Central Office of Information: Training

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what media training courses the Central Office of Information provides or commissions. [217794]

Mr. Watson: The Central Office of Information offers the following type of media training courses across the public sector:

A full day course examining how the media operate, understanding audiences and techniques required for communicating through TV and radio media, including several practice interviews.

A half day media awareness course examining how the media operate, this includes one practice interview.

Bespoke one-to-one training is available looking at specific issues upon request.

Childbirth

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many home births there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a percentage of all births in each region of England in each year since 1997. [225888]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many home births there were a) in total and b) as a percentage of all births, in each region of England in each year since 1997. (225888)

The latest year for which figures on home births are available is 2006. The attached tables show a) the number of women who gave birth at home in each Government Office Region of England in the years 1997-2006 and b) the number of women who gave birth at home as a percentage of all births in each region, 1997-2006.

Number of women giving birth at home[1] by Government Office Region in England, 1997 to 2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North East	336	303	261	252	289	276	280	328	324	394
North West	1,162	1,039	1,010	919	866	937	1,083	1,244	1,452	1,611
Yorkshire and the Humber	893	949	894	985	845	877	952	1,019	1,102	1,266
East Midlands	856	883	891	860	815	914	997	1,082	1,276	1,495
West Midlands	1,033	949	895	836	860	807	978	979	1,146	1,207
East	1,800	1,763	1,737	1,643	1,607	1,837	1,864	2,051	2,316	2,520
London	2,585	2,400	2,262	2,199	2,060	2,004	2,008	2,037	2,369	2,664
South East	2,899	2,805	2,731	2,584	2,464	2,569	2,667	2,835	3,220	3,530
South West	2,057	2,013	1,880	1,830	1,737	1,834	1,917	1,950	2,130	2,236
England	13,621	13,104	12,561	12,108	11,543	12,055	12,746	13,525	15,335	16,923

[1] The figures provided show the number of women who gave birth at home, i.e. home maternities, rather than the number of babies born at home.

Number of women giving birth at home[1] as a percentage of all maternities in each Government Office Region, 1997 to 2006

Percentage

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North East	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.4
North West	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0
East Midlands	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.6	3.0
West Midlands	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.8
East	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.6	3.8
London	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.2
South East	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.5	3.6
South West	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.1
England	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.7

[1] The figures provided show the percentage of women who gave birth at home as a percentage of all women who gave birth, i.e. percentage of home maternity rather than the percentage of babies born at home.

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* live births and *(b)* stillbirths there were in each region of England in 2007. [225948]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding how many a) live births and b) stillbirths there were in each region of England in 2007. (225948)

The table below shows the numbers of live births and stillbirths in each Government Office Region of England in 2007. The 2007 figures for the number of stillbirths is provisional, final figures will be published in Birth Statistics, Series FM1, no. 36, and the release date will be announced shortly.

Number of live births and provisional number of stillbirths in each Government office region of England, 2007

	Live births	Stillbirths[1]
North East	29,582	147
North West	85,947	475
Yorkshire and the Humber	64,191	375
East Midlands	52,482	234
West Midlands	70,098	377
East	69,311	307
London	125,505	777
South East	101,238	467
South West	57,003	239
England	655,357	3,398

[1] Provisional

Climate Change

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what work the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake on climate change; and if he will make a statement. [225359]

Mr. Watson: The Strategy Unit has supported work on several cross-departmental reviews of energy policy which have fed into statements of government policy including the 2007 Climate Change Strategic Framework and the 2007 Energy White Paper. In particular, the unit supported the energy and environment strand of the Policy Review, published in June 2007 and worked jointly with the then DTI and other Departments on the Energy Review Report of July 2006. The unit has no immediate plans to undertake specific work on climate change.

Information on the Strategy Unit's work is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what work the European and Global Issues Secretariat *(a)* has undertaken in the last five years and *(b)* plans to undertake on climate change; and if he will make a statement. [225360]

Mr. Watson: The secretariat's role is to support the Prime Minister and the Cabinet in achieving collective agreement for the Government's EU and global policy objectives, including on tackling climate change. This

has included preparation and support to the Prime Minister at European Council and G8 meetings, which have been used to advance the UK Government's policy on climate change. It is established practice not to disclose the details of Cabinet Committee discussions.

Cost of Living: Southend on Sea

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the average increase in *(a)* fuel prices, *(b)* food prices and *(c)* incomes in Southend-on-Sea in each year since 1997. [223423]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated September 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the average increase in *(a)* fuel prices, *(b)* food prices and *(c)* incomes in Southend-on-Sea in each year since 1997. (223423)

Fuel and food prices for items included in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) are collected each month by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Although prices are collected from across the UK, the ONS does not publish regional prices. Average increases at a national level since 1997 can be found at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/tsdtables1.asp?vlnk=mm23

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for producing household income data. However, the information is not available at the level requested.

Death: Cancer

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people died from cancer in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [224786]

(2) how many people died from breast cancer in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and (d) England in each year since 1997. [224788]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

1) How many people have died from cancer in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) England in each year since 1997. (224786)

2) How many people have died from breast cancer in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) England in each year since 1997. (224788)

The tables attached provide the numbers of deaths where (1) cancer and (2) breast cancer were the underlying cause of death in (a) Jarrow parliamentary constituency, (b) South Tyneside local authority, (c) North East government office region and (d) England from 1997 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths where cancer was the underlying cause of death[1], Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority, North East government office region, and England, 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

Deaths (persons)

	Jarrow	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*England*
1997	282	531	7,776	127,038
1998	280	549	7,901	127,434
1999	282	526	7,530	125,076
2000	272	522	7,469	123,887
2001	278	542	7,811	127,359
2002	281	517	7,695	128,380
2003	264	526	7,650	127,286
2004	263	527	7,629	126,048
2005	276	534	7,648	126,246
2006	298	485	7,667	126,779
2007	250	514	7,780	127,719

[1] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-208 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 for the years 2001 to 2007. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Number of deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death[1], Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority, North East government office region, and England, 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

Deaths (persons)

	Jarrow	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*England*
1997	15	42	610	11,321
1998	17	39	571	11,098
1999	20	32	545	10,865
2000	19	31	518	10,699
2001	16	34	557	10,937
2002	21	34	515	10,874
2003	14	29	477	10,565
2004	13	26	524	10,341
2005	13	25	533	10,375
2006	22	36	532	10,302
2007	12	23	475	10,062

[1] Cause of death for breast cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 174-175 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50 for the years 2001 to 2007. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 236W, on departmental aviation, what information on the number of flights and journeys is transferred to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund by the Cabinet Office in order to calculate the carbon offset payment to the fund. [222215]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office provides the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund information on the number of miles travelled by officials on departmental business in order to calculate the carbon offset payment to the fund. This mileage is broken down by long haul, short haul and domestic flights. No information on the number of flights is required and therefore is not provided by Cabinet Office.

Departmental Public Relations

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the policy of *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Central Office of Information is on the hiring by departments and executive agencies of external public relations agencies to undertake public relations work. [222931]

Mr. Watson: PR consultancies can provide valuable support to Government communications work when specialist expertise, not readily available within Government, is required. When Government Departments and executive agencies are considering the use of public relations consultancies or agencies they must follow the criteria set out in the civil service 'Propriety Guidance'.

The guidance includes the following key points:

Public relations agencies cannot represent ministers. Only civil servants who are directly controlled and answerable to ministers may explain minister's policies and deal with media or others on their behalf;

Public relations agencies cannot be used for any task that would be improper for a civil servant, such as opinion-forming in political support of ministers or image building; and

Public relations agencies must not be used when internal resources are available for the task.

The civil service Propriety Guidance is available through the following website and copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/pdf/communities/gen/guidance.pdf.

Departmental Recordings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1046W, on departmental recordings (1) what records are kept by the Cabinet Office website or IT team of the videos stored on the departmental intranet; [217443]

(2) whether videos used by the Cabinet Office are produced by the Department or by others. [217444]

Mr. Watson: Videos used by the Cabinet Office are produced through a partnership agreement with the Central Office of Information (COI). The majority of these films are for internal use only. Central records of all films produced across the Cabinet Office are not kept.

The following information is recorded in respect of films uploaded onto the departmental intranet:

category;

creator of the film;

CO unit;

date submitted;

the title of the film;

keywords; and

description.

The system also records the number of viewings for each film as they occur.

If more complex films are required management units can source other film production companies. They may also use COI's film production unit.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195875]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has video conferencing equipment located throughout its offices in central London, Basingstoke, Birchwood and Easingwold. The equipment is utilised whenever possible to reduce travel costs and to help limit carbon emissions. The Department's travel policy requires staff, as a first step before taking any travel decisions, to consider use of video conferencing facilities. There are no plans to set any specific usage targets.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226885]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office has received 149 named day questions during the current session to the end of September. Of these, 86 were answered on the due date.

Electorate

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the average number of electors in *(a)* English, *(b)* Scottish, *(c)* Welsh and *(d)* Northern Ireland parliamentary constituencies was in (i) 2001, (ii) 2004 and (iii) 2007; [225861]

(2) what the average number of electors in the areas covered by the *(a)* English, *(b)* Scottish, *(c)* Welsh and *(d)* Northern Ireland parliamentary constituencies which will be in effect at the next general election was in (i) 2001, (ii) 2004 and (iii) 2007. [225862]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your questions asking the Secretary of State for Justice:

1) What the average number of electors in (a) English, (b) Scottish, (c) Welsh and (d) Northern Ireland parliamentary constituencies was in (i) 2001, (ii) 2004 and (iii) 2007 (225861).

2) What the average number of electors in the areas covered by the (a) English, (b) Scottish, (c) Welsh and (d) Northern Ireland parliamentary constituencies which will be in effect at the next general election was in (i) 2001, (ii) 2004 and (iii) 2007 (225862).

Table 1 shows the average number of parliamentary electors in (a) English, (b) Scottish, (c) Welsh and (d) Northern Ireland parliamentary constituencies on existing boundaries for the years requested.

Table 2 shows the figures on boundaries that come into effect at the next General Election. Data on these boundaries were only collected for England and Wales for 2007. For Scotland and Northern Ireland electoral data are available only on existing boundaries.

Table 1: Average number of parliamentary electors on existing boundaries

	2001	2004	2007
England	70,503	70,026	71,489
Wales	55,892	55,837	56,392
Scotland	55,094	53,581	65,891
Northern Ireland	66,498	58,085	62,241

Table 2: Average number of parliamentary electors on boundaries that come into effect at the next general election

	2007
England	70,890
Wales	56,437

Source:
Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, and Electoral Office for Northern Ireland.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* employment rate and *(b)* the number in employment of the working age population was for (i) the UK population of working age, (ii) foreign nationals of working age, (iii) UK nationals of working age and (iv) UK born workers of working age in each quarter since 1 January 2007; and what the equivalent figures are for all persons in work irrespective of age. [223544]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated September 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) employment rate and (b) the number in employment of the working age population was for (i) the UK population of working age, (ii) foreign nationals of working age, (iii) UK nationals of working age and (iv) UK born workers of working age in each quarter since 1st January 2007; and what the equivalent figures are for all persons in work irrespective of age. (223544)

The attached tables give the number of people in the categories requested together with the corresponding rates from 1 January 2007. Table 1 shows the working age estimates (16-64 for men and 16-59 for women); table 2 shows the estimates for those aged-16 and over.

The data for analysing employment comes from the Labour Force Survey. Estimates according to nationality are based on the nationality of people at a given time in the LFS.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Employment of working age[1] population by nationality and country of birth, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

			Employment level (Thousand)	Employment rate[2] (Percentage)
2007	Q1	UK population	27,776	74
		Foreign nationals[3]	1,978	67
		UK nationals[3]	25,794	75
		UK born	24,529	75
2007	Q2	UK population	27,895	74
		Foreign nationals[3]	2,103	68
		UK nationals[3]	25,784	75
		UK born	24,508	75
2007	Q3	UK population	28,146	75
		Foreign nationals[3]	2,113	69
		UK nationals[3]	26,023	75
		UK born	24,694	76
2007	Q4	UK population	28,232	75
		Foreign nationals[3]	2,173	68
		UK nationals[3]	26,050	76
		UK born	24,718	76
2008	Q1	UK population	28,131	75
		Foreign nationals[3]	2,254	69
		UK nationals[3]	25,870	75
		UK born	24,547	75
2008	Q2	UK population	28,152	75
		Foreign nationals[3]	2,266	69
		UK nationals[3]	25,882	75

Table 1: Employment of working age[1] population by nationality and country of birth, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

			Employment level (Thousand)	Employment rate[2] (Percentage)
		UK born	24,532	75

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] The employment rate is the number of people in employment as a percentage of the total number in the relevant group.
[3] Foreign and UK nationals may not add to the UK population levels due to those who did not state their nationality.
Note:
It should be noted that the estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.).
Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 2: Employment of population aged 16 and over by nationality and country of birth, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

			Employment level (Thousand)	Employment rate[1] (Percentage)
2007	Q1	UK population	28,978	60
		Foreign nationals[2]	2,021	61
		UK nationals[2]	26,953	60
		UK born	25,622	60
2007	Q2	UK population	29,100	60
		Foreign nationals[2]	2,143	62
		UK nationals[2]	26,949	60
		UK born	25,616	60
2007	Q3	UK population	29,382	60
		Foreign nationals[2]	2,152	63
		UK nationals[2]	27,219	60
		UK born	25,825	60
2007	Q4	UK population	29,488	60
		Foreign nationals[2]	2,208	63
		UK nationals[2]	27,271	60
		UK born	25,878	60
2008	Q1	UK population	29,438	60
		Foreign nationals[2]	2,290	64
		UK nationals[2]	27,141	60
		UK born	25,755	60
2008	Q2	UK population	29,475	60
		Foreign nationals[2]	2,304	63
		UK nationals[2]	27,167	60
		UK born	25,759	60

[1] The employment rate is the number of people in employment as a percentage of the total number in the relevant group.
[2] Foreign and UK nationals may not add to the UK population levels due to those who did not state their nationality.
Note:
It should be noted that the estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.).
Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* growth and *(b)* rate of percentage change in employment level for (i) UK citizens, (ii) non-UK citizens, (iii) UK born persons and (iv) non-UK born persons for people of working age was in each year since 1997. [226214]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) growth and (b) rate of percentage change in employment level for (i) UK citizens, (ii) non-UK citizens, (iii) UK born persons and (iv) non-UK born persons for people of working age was in each year since 1997. (226214)

The attached table provides the figures requested for April-June in each year. In the table, UK citizens are defined as those who report their nationality as UK at the time of the survey.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Changes in Employment level for working age population[1] by nationality and country of birth[2]: April to June 1997 to 2008—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand (except where indicated)

	UK nationals		*Non UK nationals*		*UK born*		*Non UK born*	
	Change on previous year	*Change as a percentage*	*Change on previous year*	*Change as a percentage*	*Change on previous year*	*Change as a percentage*	*Change on previous year*	*Change as a percentage*
1997	360	1.5	95	11.2	330	1.4	123	6.9
1998	135	0.6	92	9.8	134	0.6	92	4.8
1999	391	1.6	-42	-4.1	329	1.4	19	1.0
2000	244	1.0	115	11.6	265	1.1	94	4.6
2001	174	0.7	71	6.4	156	0.6	85	4.0
2002	72	0.3	85	7.2	17	0.1	143	6.5
2003	141	0.6	94	7.4	80	0.3	156	6.6
2004	41	0.2	111	8.1	71	0.3	82	3.3
2005	149	0.6	103	7.0	87	0.4	161	6.2
2006	-95	-0.4	265	16.9	-179	-0.7	352	12.8
2007	-154	-0.6	266	14.5	-162	-0.7	272	8.8
2008	98	0.4	163	7.7	24	0.1	241	7.1

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
2 Excludes those who did not state their nationality/country of birth.
Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the employment *(a)* level and *(b)* rate for (i) UK citizens, (ii) non-UK citizens, (iii) EU14 citizens, (iv) A8 citizens and (v) citizens from the rest of the world of working age was in each quarter since 2004. [226215]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the employment (a) level and (b) rate for (i) UK citizens, (ii) non-UK citizens, (iii) EU14 citizens, (iv) A8 citizens and (v) citizens from the rest of the world of working age was in each quarter since 2004. (226215)

Table 1, attached, shows the number of employed people of working age (16-64 for men and 16-59 for women) in each category. Table 2 shows the corresponding employment rates. In the tables, citizenship is defined as the nationality reported by respondents at the time of the survey. The tables exclude those whose nationality is not known.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Employment level for people of working age[1], by nationality United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

		UK	*Non-UK*	*EU14[2]*	*A8[3]*	*Rest of world[4]*
2004	Q1	25,934	1,408	480	51	877
	Q2	25,883	1,469	485	63	921
	Q3	26,122	1,472	466	82	923
	Q4	26,097	1,573	486	103	984
2005	Q1	25,996	1,594	489	104	1,001
	Q2	26,032	1,572	468	141	963
	Q3	26,276	1,623	475	175	973
	Q4	26,048	1,692	482	209	1,000
2006	Q1	25,969	1,764	470	240	1,053
	Q2	25,938	1,837	452	252	1,132
	Q3	26,085	1,913	451	297	1,165
	Q4	25,991	1,962	478	344	1,141
2007	Q1	25,794	1,978	502	368	1,107
	Q2	25,784	2,103	509	431	1,163
	Q3	26,023	2,113	509	430	1,175
	Q4	26,050	2,173	505	469	1,199
2008	Q1	25,870	2,254	522	500	1,232

Table 1: Employment level for people of working age[1], by nationality United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

		UK	Non-UK	EU14[2]	A8[3]	Rest of world[4]
	Q2[5]	*25,882	*2,266	**523	**498	*1,244

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] EU14 comprises Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.
[3] A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
[4] Rest of world excludes UK, EU14 and A8.
[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV— for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness
* 0≤CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Table 2: Employment rates for people of working age[1], by nationality United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		UK	Non-UK	EU14[2]	A8[3]	Rest of world[4]
2004	Q1	75.3	63.1	69.2	61.5	60.2
	Q2	75.1	64.8	71.1	79.3	61.2
	Q3	75.6	65.1	72.7	73.8	61.3
	Q4	75.7	65.5	75.3	75.2	60.7
2005	Q1	75.3	65.7	73.5	75.3	61.7
	Q2	75.3	63.9	71.3	81.9	59.0
	Q3	75.9	65.2	72.0	80.9	60.3
	Q4	75.2	66.3	70.9	82.7	61.9
2006	Q1	75.0	67.0	72.4	82.7	62.2
	Q2	74.9	68.0	72.6	82.8	63.8
	Q3	75.3	69.2	74.9	81.6	64.8
	Q4	75.2	68.7	74.5	81.8	63.6
2007	Q1	74.7	66.9	74.4	81.1	60.6
	Q2	74.9	67.9	73.0	82.1	62.1
	Q3	75.4	68.6	74.4	83.6	62.5
	Q4	75.6	68.3	74.8	84.0	61.6
2008	Q1	75.1	69.2	75.5	83.1	62.8
	Q2	75.1	68.9	75.0	84.5	62.2

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] EU14 comprises Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.
[3] A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
[4] Rest of world excludes UK, EU14 and A8.
Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Higher Civil Servants: Car Allowances

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what mileage rate for motoring expenses is paid to senior civil servants. [226623]

Mr. Watson: The Department does not provide central rules regarding levels of reimbursement of car mileage undertaken on Government business. Departments and agencies have delegated authority to reimburse the expenses incurred by their own staff, including senior civil servants, in connection with their employment subject to the conditions set out in Section 8 of the Civil Service Management Code:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/online_report/8.asp

Copies of the Civil Service Management Code are available in the Libraries of the House.

Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether webmail accounts are blocked in the

offices of *(a)* 10 Downing Street and *(b)* the Cabinet Office. [198183]

Mr. Watson: Access to webmail accounts from the corporate IT networks in the Cabinet Office is tightly controlled to mitigate any threat that such accounts may pose to the integrity, security and availability of Government data.

Local Government: Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether local government employers were consulted before the decision was made to extend the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Advice and Trade Unions in Government Contracting to local government. [224077]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* No decision has yet been taken to extend the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting, which aims to improve the quality of services delivered under Government contracts by raising the skills of employees working on these contracts. This is explicitly stated in the Joint Statement. The Local Government Employers' organisation agreed to hold a consultation with local authorities to seek views on the application of the Joint Statement to local government.

Media Monitoring Unit

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his policy is on the release to third parties of transcripts of broadcast interviews *(a)* produced and *(b)* commissioned by the Media Monitoring Unit at public expense. [222218]

Mr. Watson: The Media Monitoring Unit (MMU) produces transcripts commissioned by Government Departments. Transcripts are then distributed to Government Departments.

Office of the Third Sector: Consultants

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Office of the Third Sector spent on outside consultancy in financial year *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [225264]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) has engaged outside consultants for specialist recruitment exercises for senior public appointments, for procurement exercises and for the development and/or review of data sources, policies and programmes. The OTS spent just over £590,000 on consultancy in 2007-08, excluding VAT.

Details of outside consultancy spend in 2008-09 will only be available when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Office of the Third Sector: Manpower

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff are employed by the Office of the Third Sector. [225263]

Kevin Brennan: As at 30 September 2008, The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) employed 66 staff. This includes all staff paid by OTS. The figure includes 57 staff in post and nine staff not currently working in the office, such as staff on maternity leave, short term appointments and staff on long term sick leave.

Official Residences: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1307W, on official residences: repairs and maintenance, what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* purpose was of the work incurred on Project Silent Night. [199104]

Mr. Watson: The expenditure in 2000-01 was to convert rooms into office accommodation.

Private Sector: Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting, whether private sector firms with public sector contracts who provide information to their employees about trade union membership will be *(a)* required or *(b)* encouraged by the Cabinet Office to include information about union members' rights to opt out of the political levy. [223371]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting provides an Annex containing information on skills, trade unions and advice which service providers may be asked to distribute to employees. Both this Annex and the Joint Statement are available in the Library of the House. The Annex sets out employees' legal rights concerning trade union membership and other basic information relevant to the workplace and, like the whole Joint Statement, was agreed by Government, union and private and third sector representatives.

Not all unions have a political fund or levy, but it is a legal requirement for union members to be informed about the right to opt out of these. The Joint Statement Annex supplied to employees refers them to sources which explain the rules regarding political levies.

Public Services Forum Task Group

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on which dates the Public Services Forum Task Group has met; and if he will place in the Library copies of the agendas and minutes of each meeting. [197452]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* Details of task groups' meetings, such as agendas and minutes, are not generally disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of discussions.

Training: Prime Minister

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what diversity training is provided to new

staff as part of their induction process in the Prime Minister's Office. [199063]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Diversity training is incorporated into all aspects of Human Resources including the induction of new entrants.

Unemployed: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* people in the UK aged 16 to 24 years old were unemployed in each quarter of the last two years for which figures are available; and what the employment rate of each group was in each such quarter. [223547]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated September 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* people in the UK aged 16 to 24 years old were unemployed in each quarter of the last two years for which figures are available; and what the employment rate of each group was in each such quarter. (223547)

The attached table gives the number of people unemployed in the categories requested together with the corresponding employment rates from quarter 2 2006.

The data for analysing unemployment and employment comes from the Labour Force Survey. UK citizens have been defined as UK nationals for the purpose of answering your question. Estimates according to nationality are based on the nationality of people at a given time in the LFS.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Unemployment levels, United Kingdom

Not seasonally adjusted (thousand)

		Aged 16+		Aged 16 to 24 (inclusive)	
		UK total	UK nationals	UK total	UK nationals
2006	Q2	1,649	1,478	654	608
2006	Q3	1,773	1,590	797	740
2006	Q4	1,662	1,488	676	621
2007	Q1	1,692	1,502	669	612
2007	Q2	1,621	1,434	675	617
2007	Q3	1,731	1,558	806	751
2007	Q4	1,563	1,395	663	616
2008	Q1	1,610	1,431	642	586,
2008	Q2	1,643	1,468	676	622

Note:
The estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).
Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Table 2: Employment rates[1], United Kingdom

Not seasonally adjusted (percentage)

		Aged 16+		Aged 16 to 24 (inclusive)	
		UK total	UK nationals	UK total	UK nationals
2006	Q2	60	60	58	58
2006	Q3	60	60	61	61
2006	Q4	60	60	60	60
2007	Q1	60	60	57	58
2007	Q2	60	60	57	57
2007	Q3	60	60	59	60
2007	Q4	60	60	59	60
2008	Q1	60	60	57	58
2008	Q2	60	60	56	57

[1] The employment rate is the number of people in employment as a percentage of all persons in the relevant group.
Note:
The estimates exclude people in most types of "communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).
Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Unemployment: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were unemployed in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last six months. [225850]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were unemployed in (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (b) the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last six months. (225850)

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and model based estimates following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. These are available only for rolling 4 quarter periods. The latest available estimates cover the 12 months ending September 2007 and December 2007 and are 2,000 for Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and 5,000 for the London Borough of Bexley in both periods.

Table 1 attached shows the number of persons claiming Job Seeker's Allowance resident in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and the London Borough of Bexley for each of the last six months.

These figures along with a wide range of other labour market data for parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are also published on the Office for National Statistics' Nomis® website:

www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and the London borough of Bexley

	Bexleyheath and Crayford	Bexley
March 2008	794	2,252
April 2008	804	2,305
May 2008	793	2,323
June 2008	785	2,302
July 2008	828	2,320
August 2008	866	2,511

Source:
Job Centre Plus Administrative System

Unemployment: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were unemployed in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [224481]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated 13 October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking how many people were unemployed in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area in each of the last six months for which figures are available. (224481)

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and model based estimates following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The APS classifies as unemployed people who are without a job, who were available to start work in the two weeks following their APS interview and who had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or are waiting to start a job already obtained.

Table 1, attached, shows the numbers of people aged 16 and over who were unemployed and resident in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area for the 12 month periods ending March 2008, which is the most recent period for which estimates are available, and September and December 2007. As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

These figures along with a wide range of other labour market data for parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are also published on the Office for National Statistics's Nomis® website:

www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Number of unemployed persons[1] resident in West Chelmsford constituency and Chelmsford local authority

Thousand

12 months ending	*West Chelmsford[2]*	*Chelmsford LA[3]*
September 2007	2	3
December 2007	2	3
March 2008[4]	****2	***3

[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.
[2] Annual Population Survey estimates.
[3] Model-based estimates.
[4] CVs have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality.
Guide to Quality
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220
Key Coefficient of Statistical Robustness Variation (CV) (%)
* 0 ≤ CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 ≤ CV<10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 ≤ CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
Source:
ONS Annual Population Survey and Model Based Estimates.

Unemployment: Yorkshire and the Humber

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people living in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Yorkshire were unemployed in each of the last 12 months. [226394]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people living in (a) Leeds and (b) Yorkshire were unemployed in each of the last 12 months. (226394)

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics for local areas such as Leeds using model based estimates and for regions such as Yorkshire and The Humber using the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The model based estimates for Leeds are available only for rolling four quarter periods. The latest available estimates cover the twelve months ending September 2007 and December 2007 and are provided in Table 1. The estimates for Yorkshire and The Humber from the LFS are available for rolling three monthly periods and the latest available estimates are provided in Table 2.

Table 3 gives the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in Leeds and Yorkshire and The Humber for each of the last twelve months.

These figures along with a wide range of other labour market data for parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are also published on the Office for National Statistics' Nomis® website:

www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons unemployed[1] resident in Leeds

12 months ending	*Leeds (Thousand)*
September 2007	23
23 December 2007[2]	*** 23

[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.
[2] Coefficients of variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See guide to quality as follows.
Guide to quality:
The coefficient of variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180
Key Coefficient of statistical robustness variation (CV) (%)
* 0 ≤ CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 ≤ CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
Source:
Model based estimates.

Table 2: Number of persons unemployed[1] resident in Yorkshire and the Humber

3 months ending	*Yorkshire and the Humber (Thousand)*
August 2007	147
September 2007	138
October 2007	138
November 2007	138
December 2007	137
January 2008	130
February 2008	134

Table 2: Number of persons unemployed[1] resident in Yorkshire and the Humber

3 months ending	*Yorkshire and the Humber (Thousand)*
March 2008	131
April 2008	142
May 2008	145
June 2008	159
July 2008[2]	**162

[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.

[2] Coefficients of variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See guide to quality as follows.

Guide to quality:

The coefficient of variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180

Key Coefficient of statistical robustness variation (CV) (%)

* $0 \leq CV < 5$ Estimates are considered precise.

** $5 \leq CV < 10$ Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** $10 \leq CV < 20$ Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** $CV \geq 20$ Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source:

Model based estimates.

Table 3: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Leeds and Yorkshire and the Humber

	Leeds	*Yorkshire and the Humber*
September 2007	12,447	77,993
October 2007	12,039	75,008
November 2007	11,785	73,470
December 2007	11,922	74,884
January 2008	12,424	79,148
February 2008	12,628	81,294
March 2008	12,545	80,576
April 2008	12,475	80,214
May 2008	12583	80,263
June 2008	12,689	80,827
July 2008	13,384	84,704
August 2008	14,165	90,020

Source:

Job Centre Plus Administrative System.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Ascension Island

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedure will operate in relation to the UK's Atlantic seabed claim around Ascension Island; what the deadline is for objections to be made; who may object; what the deadline is for a decision on the claim; for what reasons the UK has made the claim; and if he will make a statement. [223487]

Gillian Merron: In accordance with article 76 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, on 9 May 2008, the UK submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, information on the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the coastline of Ascension Island.

Under the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the executive summary of the submission was made public and circulated to all UN member states (a copy can be found at:

http://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_gbr.htm

A period of at least three months then had to follow before the submission could be formally heard by the Commission, during which time any and all member states of the United Nations had the right to transmit Notes Verbale making observations on, or objecting to, the submission.

No such observations or objections having been made, the UK formally presented its submission to the Commission in New York on 27 August 2008.

We expect that the Commission will now proceed to establish a sub-commission of seven members to examine the UK submission. The time scale for this will depend on the overall work load of the Commission. There is no deadline for a decision.

Once satisfied, the Commission will make its recommendations to the UK regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf around Ascension Island. In line with the provisions of the convention, the limits subsequently established shall be final and binding in international law.

In 2006, the UK made another submission to the Commission—jointly with France, Ireland and Spain—in respect of the sea bed in the bay of Biscay. We await the Commission's recommendations.

UK officials and scientists are also in the process of examining two further areas of continental shelf where the geological conditions may exist to justify further submissions—in the 'Hatton Rockall Area' of the North East Atlantic, and around the Falkland Island islands and South Georgia. In both instances, the UK will take appropriate action before May 2009, as required by the convention.

The UK has confirmed to the Commission that it is not submitting data for the continental shelf around the British Antarctic Territory, but that it reserves the right to do so in future.

The UK—and many other countries—is taking these actions in order to safeguard for the future its sovereign rights over its continental shelf, where the conditions laid down by the convention allow. It is an ordinary process, entirely in line with international law, and recognised by the UN General Assembly.

British Overseas Territories: Historic Buildings

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many historic assets there are in each of the British overseas territories; what estimate he has made of the value of such overseas heritage assets; whether there is a registered list of overseas assets; and who has responsibility for managing such overseas assets. [222384]

Gillian Merron: The British overseas territories have listed the following historical assets. As agreed with my hon. Friend, these include historical and heritage sites covering churches, forts, caves, cemeteries, buildings and officially recognised World Heritage sites:

Overseas territory	*Number of heritage/historical sites*
Anguilla	88
Ascension	43
Bermuda	[1]874
British Antarctic Territory	26
British Indian Ocean Territories	14
British Virgin Islands	240
Cayman Islands	12
Cyprus SBAs	7
Falkland Islands	50
Gibraltar	151
Montserrat	35
Pitcairn	2
St. Helena	11
South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	9
Tristan da Cunha	2
Turks and Caicos Islands	[2]

[1] The figure for Bermuda includes buildings of architectural interest as well as historical and heritage sites. A separate list of historical and heritage sites does not exist.

[2] Figures are currently unavailable. Due to recent hurricane activity in the Turks and Caicos Islands. We will forward details as soon as they are available.

An estimate of the value of these assets has not been carried out. Most of the overseas territories maintain a list or register of their historical and heritage sites. These sites are owned by overseas territory Governments, private individuals, who own the majority of the sites, non-governmental organisations and, in very few cases, by the British Government, for example the Governor's former residence in Plymouth, Montserrat and land and properties in the British Indian ocean territories. The responsibility for managing the sites lies with the owner of the individual site in accordance with local legislation and regulations.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy is expected next to meet Iranian nuclear negotiators to discuss Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [224190]

David Miliband: There are no such meetings scheduled at present. However, the E3+3 engagement offer remains on the table, and Javier Solana will continue to make himself available for a meeting with the Iranians on behalf of the E3+3.

Iran: United Nations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to meet next his counterparts from the permanent membership of the UN Security Council and Germany to discuss a new UN Security Council Resolution on Iran; and if he will make a statement. [224189]

David Miliband: The UK, US, France, Germany, Russia and China hold a close dialogue on the Iranian nuclear issue, and met at official and ministerial levels during the recent UN General Assembly. The result was the unanimous adoption of new Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1835 on 27 September, which calls upon Iran to comply without delay to the requirements of UNSCRs 1969, 1737, 1747 and 1803 and suspend its nuclear programme. Consultations between all six states continue.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has received from the Contingency Reserve in respect of the civilian costs of crisis management in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last five years; what contingency funding is foreseen; and if he will make a statement. [220642]

David Miliband: All funding received by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) from the Treasury Reserve is reported to Parliament as part of the estimates process. The FCO does not hold disaggregated information relating to the civilian costs of crisis management in Iraq and Afghanistan, and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Any future requests for funding will be reported through the estimates process in the usual way.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what involvement the UK has in counter-piracy measures in and around Somali waters. [224467]

Gillian Merron: We have been working with EU and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) partners to consider options to counter-piracy in the region, both directly and through development activity to undermine it at its roots. In support of UN Security Council resolution 1816, the EU has set up a cell in Brussels to co-ordinate EU activity in the region, and the EU and NATO are considering options to undertake further naval action. We have also supported the French drafting of a new UN Security Council resolution which aims to strengthen the international community's response to piracy.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether a report has been made available by the UN on the recent conflict in Abyei, Sudan; and what effect on the operation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement the conflict has had. [223577]

Gillian Merron: The fighting in Abyei in mid-May could have posed a serious threat to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The National Congress party and Sudan People's Liberation Movement have shown their commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement by agreeing a Roadmap on 8 June to resolve the Abyei dispute which has been an obstacle to implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. We are working with both parties and with international partners to implement fully the Abyei Roadmap and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

We expect the UN to report on the Abyei conflict in the next report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan, which is due in November.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* EU and *(b)* UN Security Council member counterparts on the situation in Darfur. [224295]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN have had regular discussions with EU and UN Security Council partners on the Darfur peace process and the deployment of the UN-Africa Union peacekeeping mission, including most recently at the UN General Assembly in New York on 24-27 September. The Foreign Secretary, on his visit to Khartoum on 9 July, also raised the situation in Darfur with President Bashir of Sudan.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the expected date of completion of the trial of Uganda opposition leader Dr. Kizza Besigye; and if he will make a statement. [224249]

Gillian Merron: There has been no date set for the completion of Dr. Besigye's trial. It was put on hold pending the outcome of a petition to the Constitutional Court, made by Dr. Besigye's lawyers in May 2007.

We continue to follow the case closely and remain in contact with the defence team. In the course of our regular dialogue with the Government of Uganda, we continue to press them on all aspects of good governance and the rule of law.

Visits Abroad

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have not received an official visit from a Minister since the last general election. [224822]

Gillian Merron: There are no centrally held records of ministerial overseas visits, therefore this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask the UN Human Rights Commissioner to release the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights' report on the visit of its mission to Rabat, Laayoune, and Tindouf between 15th and 23rd May 2006 and Algiers on 19th June 2006. [224173]

Gillian Merron: The office of the high commissioner for human rights visited Morocco, Western Sahara, refugee camps in Tindouf (Algeria), and Algiers in May to June 2006 to gather information on the human rights situation. The office of the high commissioner for human rights shared its report privately with Morocco, Algeria and the Polisario on 8 September 2006, but did not publish it, in line with terms of reference agreed by all parties prior to the visit. The UN high commissioner for human rights continues to maintain the position that the report should remain an internal document, not for official publication, and the UK respects this decision.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Businesses: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the likely effect on businesses of the imposition by local authorities of *(a)* infrastructure levies, *(b)* congestion charges and *(c)* workplace parking taxes over each of the next three years. [225655]

Mr. Iain Wright: Decisions as to whether to introduce congestion charging and work place parking taxes schemes are for local authorities to take. No work place parking taxes schemes are operative at present. It is not possible for the Government to predict what level of charges might be imposed on business by these schemes over the next three years as potential revenues are subject to too many variables to be able to offer the House a meaningful estimate.

The Government are in the process of legislating for the introduction of a new community infrastructure levy (CIL) through clauses in the Planning Bill, now before Parliament. The Bill empowers, but does not require, authorities to introduce a CIL. Again, as a discretionary tool, it will be for individual authorities to decide whether to adopt CIL and the level of CIL that should apply in their local areas.

Canatxx: Natural Gas

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ministers and officials from her Department have met representatives of Canatxx Ltd to discuss gas storage facilities in the UK. [225406]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. Details of meetings between Ministers and outside interest groups are provided on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/

After the Secretary of State issued her decision to refuse planning permission for development of a natural gas storage facility at Preesall Saltfield, Fleetwood, Lancashire on 16 October 2007, policy officials met with representatives of Canatxx Ltd on 6 December 2007 to discuss general policy on gas storage facilities.

Council Housing: Private Finance Initiative

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the economic situation on the delivery of private finance initiative housing projects; and if she will make a statement. [226569]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department is monitoring the situation and working closely with all PFI schemes to help support them in finding solutions where difficulties arise.

Council Tax: Concessions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities may demand internal inspections of domestic dwellings as a condition of applying a single person's council tax discount. [226373]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1987-88W.

Departmental Accountancy

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent under general ledger account numbers 40017 and 60002 in the latest year for which figures are available. [225651]

Mr. Khan: General Ledger account number 40017 is titled "Furniture and fittings" and expenditure in 2007-08 was £3,182,099. This expenditure was largely on projects to rationalise and improve utilisation of the Department's headquarters office accommodation. Account code 60002 is not used and there was no expenditure recorded against it in 2007-08.

Departmental Consultations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to hold online consultations in the next two years. [225015]

Mr. Khan: All public consultations that the Department undertake are available online. As the new Code of Practice on Consultation makes clear, consultation exercises are designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people the exercise is aimed to reach. Therefore due consideration is given to this issue before deciding on how we actually consult. However, we would always make hard copies available of our public consultations on request.

The Department is aware of the opportunities that technology offers to improve the effectiveness of our consultations. Communities and Local Government have used online surveys as part of public consultation and will continue to do so when appropriate to inform the policy making process. The following list sets out examples of consultations where we have used online technology from November 2007 to October 2008.

Consultations

Local Petitions/Community Calls for Action;

Empowerment White Paper;

Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance;

The Future of Building Controls; and

The New Place Survey Consultation.

Departmental Contracts

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on subscriptions to overseas bodies under general ledger account number 40104 in the latest year for which figures are available. [225559]

Mr. Khan: There was no expenditure recorded against this code in 2007-08.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on agency staff under general ledger account number 40002 in the latest year for which figures are available. [225446]

Mr. Khan: The Department spent £21,666,709 on temporary or agency staff in the financial year 2007-08.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in her Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226414]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 538W.

Departmental Telephone Services

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what agencies or units for which her Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers which charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225719]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government does not require the public to make telephone calls on numbers which charge more than the national rate. The Department does not derive revenue from callers dialling its contact numbers.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day her Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226901]

Mr. Khan: In the period 6 November 2007 to 10 October 2008, Communities and Local Government received 4,445 written parliamentary questions, including 716 for answer on a named day. Of the 716,389 (54 per

cent.) were answered on the due date and a further 209 (29 per cent.) were answered within a working week of the date for answer.

Eco-Towns: Greenfield Sites

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of greenfield land she estimates to be developed in each eco-town. [225642]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are still consulting on the shortlisted locations for eco-towns and decisions on locations with potential to become eco-towns will be taken early in 2009, and updated information was included on the sites in "Eco-towns—living a greener future: progress report", published on 24 July 2008. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) will shortly be published for consultation, and in the SA there will be more details about each of the shortlisted locations, including development on greenfield land. Copies of the SA and draft PPS will be placed in the House Library.

Eco-Towns: Planning

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether full planning inquiries will be held into eco-town proposals which are not already allocated in local authority structure plans, local development frameworks or regional spatial strategies. [225643]

Mr. Iain Wright: The processes for the preparation of a regional spatial strategy and for development plan documents, which form part of the local development framework, provide for an independent examination to be held. Where proposals for eco-towns are identified in either the regional spatial strategy or in development plan documents, these would form part of the considerations at independent examination.

As is the case with any other proposal, planning applications for eco-towns will be decided on their merits, firstly by the local planning authority. If the application is refused planning consent and subsequently appealed by the applicant, the appeal would be handled by the Planning Inspectorate. One of the ways of hearing the appeal would be through a planning inquiry.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will publish the draft Planning Policy Statement on eco-towns. [225051]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Cotswold on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 309W.

Eco-Towns: Public Participation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses have been received on eco-towns consultations; and what the deadlines are for responses to such consultations. [225649]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have completed the first stage of consultation on "Eco-towns—living a greener future", which sought views on the principles of eco-towns and the shortlisted locations. This ran from April to the end of June and we will shortly be publishing a summary report of the responses received, including numbers of responses. The second stage of consultation will begin shortly and this will be on the draft Planning Policy Statement and Sustainability Appraisal, and will be a public consultation running for three months.

Eco-Towns: Sustainable Development

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the minimum Code for Sustainable Homes level will be that homes in eco-towns built before 2016 will have to meet. [225448]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave her on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 306W.

Electoral Register

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the outcome of neighbourhood management pathfinders against objectives to increase electoral registration. [224823]

John Healey: The 35 neighbourhood management pathfinders aim to help deprived communities and local service providers work together at the neighbourhood level to improve and join up local services. No assessment has been made of the pathfinders' contribution to increasing electoral registration rates as this does not form one of their objectives.

Environment Protection

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether tree safety inspections required by her Department will require homeowners to pay a specialist to examine regularly their garden trees. [225447]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not require safety inspections to be carried out on trees in private gardens. We have no proposals to make such inspections compulsory.

Fire Services: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters there were per 100,000 residents in *(a)* England, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* Chesterfield in each year since 1997. [225897]

Mr. Khan: Information on the number of firefighters per 100,000 population in Derbyshire and England is set out in the table. Information for UK and Chesterfield is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table: Firefighters per 100,000 population

	Derbyshire	*England*
1997-98	90	92
1998-99	87	92
1999-00	90	91
2000-01	87	91
2001-02	88	90
2002-03	83	90
2003-04	85	90
2004-05	85	89
2005-06	82	89
2006-07	81	89

Source:
Annual returns to Communities and local government.

Fire Services: Pensions

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) for what reasons the commutation factors used in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme were not revised between 1998 and 2008; [225331]

(2) when her Department was advised by the Government Actuary's Department of the desirability of revising the commutation factors used in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme leading to the adoption of new factors in May 2008; and if she will place in the Library copies of subsequent correspondence between her Department and the Government Actuary's Department on the commutation factors used in the Scheme. [225332]

Mr. Khan: The Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 allows a member to commute part of their pension for a lump sum. This is the actuarial equivalent of the commuted portion calculated from tables provided by the Government Actuary.

The then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister raised issues relating to commutation with the Government Actuary's Department on 23 December 2005 as part of the continuing review of the pension arrangements for firefighters. GAD responded on 22 August 2006 setting out the assumptions which would be adopted in determining new factors. Following extensive discussions with GAD and the Home Office, GAD recommended new factors for the 1992 scheme and the Police Pension Scheme, in which similar commutation arrangements apply. Subsequently, HM Treasury agreed that the new tables should be backdated to 1 October 2007.

Retired firefighters, who did not benefit from the new factors, are now lodging grievances with the Department and these are currently being considered.

Copies of the letters of 23 December 2005 and 22 August 2006 have been placed in the Library.

Housing Associations: Fraud

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the level of fraud perpetuated against housing associations. [224721]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation has issued guidance to registered social landlords (RSLs) (Circular 07/07—Internal Controls Assurance) which states that RSLs should report cases of actual or attempted fraudulent activity to the relevant field director at the Corporation at the earliest opportunity. The report should include actions taken or to be taken by the RSL. Each regional office of the Housing Corporation maintains a list of fraudulent activity that has been reported to them.

In June 2008, the Corporation had a record of 107 cases of fraud/attempted fraud reported to it by RSLs in the last three years. Of these, 36 cases were still under investigation in June. The total amount of fraud in the 107 cases equates to £3,540,082, although this figure is subject to variation where the value of the fraud is not known or an estimate of the value has been provided by the RSL. In the majority of cases where the outcome of an investigation is known, funds were recovered.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there are plans to revise the house building targets in the new regional spatial strategies as a consequence of the downturn in the housing market. [225451]

Mr. Iain Wright: Regional spatial strategies (RSS) are strategic high level development plans with a 15 to 20-year life-span and housing targets in them reflect the long term need for housing over that period rather than the level of supply at any particular point in the economic cycle. RSSs must continue to reflect the long term housing need. Although the Government recognise the current challenges faced by our housing markets, in the long term it remains committed to increasing supply to 240,000 homes. Further RSS reviews will be undertaken to test both the long term need and capacity in each region.

Housing: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many ex-service personnel in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were registered as council tenants in each year since 1997; [224684]

(2) how many ex-service personnel in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were registered as homeless in each year since 1997. [224685]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about the number of ex-service personnel who are council tenants is not collected centrally.

Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level, in respect of households rather than individuals. The parliamentary constituency of Jarrow falls within two local authority districts: South Tyneside and Gateshead.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure suitable accommodation).

Since 2005-06, data have been collected on the number of accepted households whose reason for loss of last settled home was having left HM Forces. Data for England, the North East, and the districts of South Tyneside and Gateshead are shown in the following table:

Main reason for loss of last settled home due to having left HM Forces

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
England	268	204	218
North East	41	27	32
South Tyneside	1	0	3
Gateshead	[1]	17	16

[1] Data not reported.

Source:
Quarterly P1E homelessness return.

Information about homeless acceptances is also collected by category of "priority need" of the applicant. This includes applicants who have priority need primarily because they are vulnerable as a result of having served in HM Forces. These data are shown in the following table, for the same areas:

Household accepted with primary priority need of being vulnerable as result of having served in HM Forces

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
England	104	95	73	53	36
North East	17	17	14	14	11
South Tyneside	0	0	0	1	0
Gateshead	[1]	[1]	[1]	9	8

[1] Data not reported.

Source:
Quarterly P1E homelessness return.

The two sets of figures above will overlap because some homeless acceptances who are ex-service personnel will fall within both (that is, in priority need because they were vulnerable as a result of having served in HM Forces, and the reason for loss of their last settled home is due to leaving Forces accommodation).

It is also likely that some ex-service personnel will be hidden within other priority need categories (for example the presence of dependent children) or other reasons for loss of last settled home (for example, having to leave the family home), and so will not be identifiable in the above figures. It is therefore not possible to identify what proportion of all homeless acceptances are ex-service personnel.

Local authorities who conduct rough sleeper counts collect information on any individuals sleeping rough, and these are published annually on our website. Figures include those rough sleepers who have previously served in HM Forces, but these are not shown separately.

Rough sleeping among ex-armed forces personnel has dropped. There are no specific data for 1997 but studies at the time suggested between a quarter and one fifth of rough sleepers had been in the armed forces at some stage. There is specific information for London provided under the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) recording system. In 2006-07, for those rough sleepers in London contacted by services, 5 per cent. had spent some time in the armed forces in the past. This has remained consistent over the last four years.

The Ministry of Defence provides advice and support to veterans with housing problems. All ex-service personnel facing homelessness are advised to contact the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency via its free phone helpline or Veterans UK website to access specific help.

Housing: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with insurance companies on requiring repairs to houses affected by flooding to make residences more flood resilient, with particular reference to *(a)* installation of electrical sockets higher up and *(b)* the replacement of wooden skirting boards with a water-resistant version. [225401]

Mr. Iain Wright: The issue of flood resilient repairs has formed part of discussions between Ministers and the Association of British Insurers on a number of occasions since the summer 2007 floods, in particular in October 2007 and January 2008.

Housing: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to ensure future housing provision to meet London's housing needs. [225378]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning for housing provision in London is primarily a matter for the Mayor of London and the boroughs. Both carry out studies to assess the housing requirements and potential of their areas. These studies provide evidence to inform housing supply targets, for inclusion in their regional and local development plans.

The Mayor's London Plan sets a London-wide target to provide a minimum of 30,500 homes per year and targets for each borough. As required by Government, the new Mayor is updating the London-wide evidence base on housing requirements and potential, to inform new housing supply targets for inclusion in a revised London Plan by 2012 at the latest.

Government provide funding for affordable housing. In London, around £3 billion of public funding through the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme is being invested over three years, 2008 to 2011, to deliver substantial numbers of affordable homes to help meet housing need.

Housing: Heating

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regulations and guidance her Department and its predecessors have issued on the use of non-barrier piping for central heating systems in the last 15 years. [224906]

Mr. Iain Wright: None—the England and Wales Building Regulations do not generally prescribe the use of particular materials or products (such as non-barrier piping), as they are functional regulations. Regulation 7 covers materials and workmanship, and requires that relevant building works must be carried out with proper materials in a workmanlike manner. The accompanying Approved Document guidance provides further advice on ways of demonstrating that products are fit for purpose.

Housing: Insulation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average additional cost of wall insulation for a home with solid walls; and if she will make a statement. [224922]

Mr. Iain Wright: The report: 'Review of Sustainability of Existing Buildings: The Energy Efficiency of Dwellings—Initial Analysis', published by my Department in November 2006, estimated that it would cost £3,150 to provide solid wall insulation in an average home. It was also estimated that the annual cost saving on energy bills would be £380, and that payback would be achieved in 7.5 years. This contrasts with figures of £342 for cavity wall insulation, saving £133 a year and achieving payback in 2.6 years. The 2006 report is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/doc/320213.doc

Housing: Solar Energy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations she has received from local authorities seeking amendments to planning law to give preferential planning to new build with solar energy installed in the last two years. [224914]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities and other stakeholders have made representations to the Department on preferential planning for new build with low or zero carbon emissions. Unlike submissions received relating to microgeneration on existing buildings, these representations have not focused on changes to planning legislation. Nor have they concentrated on particular renewable technologies, such as solar energy. Instead, their emphasis has been on ensuring a positive response from local authorities to proposals for low or zero carbon new buildings. In the light of these representations, our new planning policy on climate change underlines that developers with proposals which would secure high levels of resource and energy efficiency and reductions in emissions should expect their planning application to be handled expeditiously and sympathetically.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when representatives of her Department last met housebuilders to discuss the promotion of solar energy in new build housing. [224918]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government (CLG) officials and Ministers continue to engage regularly with the house building industry, and other important stakeholders, regarding the use of microgeneration technology, including Solar Hot Water and Solar PV (photovoltaic), in new build housing. In 2006 we introduced a regulatory framework that encourages renewable systems without prescription. CLG forums that include representation from homebuilders and discuss the future of various renewable technologies are (with last meeting dates in brackets); the Code Implementation Advisory Group (15 September 2008) Code's Technical Advisory Group (21 July 2008), the Industry Advisory Groups which are working on proposals for revising Part L of the Building Regulations (6 August 2008) and the 2016 Zero Carbon New Homes Taskforce (5 June 2008).

Housing: South East

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's latest estimate is of the number of new homes required to be built in the south-east region; and how many of these homes are required to fulfil housing need for those living in the south-east region. [224607]

Mr. Iain Wright: Figures for housing provision are set out in Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS). Build rates set out in the current RSS are 29,500 per year in the south-east region. The Government are currently consulting on their Proposed Changes to a replacement RSS, which sets out a figure of 33,125 dwellings per year to be built up to 2026.

The latest 2004 based household projections showed a need for around 35,900 new dwellings in the south-east. The number of additional households to be formed by net migration is estimated at the England level only. These estimates show that 223,000 households will form per year from 2004 to 2026 in England, of which 73,000 (33 per cent.) will be attributable to net migration.

Work carried out for the South East of England Regional Assembly, which prepared the draft RSS now subject to consultation suggested that around two-thirds of new homes built in the region would be occupied by those already in the south-east.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the demand for new homes in *(a)* the south-east Region and *(b)* other regions from (i) UK nationals already living in the south-east region, (ii) UK nationals living outside the south-east region, (iii) European Union citizens and (iv) citizens of other countries. [224756]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest 2004 based household projections showed a need for around 35,900 new dwellings in the south-east. The number of additional households projected to be formed by net migration is estimated at the England level only. These estimates show that 223,000 households are projected to be formed per year from 2004 to 2026 in England, of which 73,000 (33 per cent.) will be attributable to net migration.

Work by the South East of England Regional Assembly, which prepared the draft RSS, suggested that around two-thirds of new homes built in the region would be occupied by those already in the south-east.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 19 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1635-36W on housing: sustainable development, if she will assess whether it would be possible for a home using any tumble dryer currently available on the market to achieve over 90 per cent. of the credits available within the Code for Sustainable Homes. [225566]

Mr. Iain Wright: Yes, providing that it is rated either A or B, of which there a number available on the market. To achieve code level 6 the house builder must achieve at least 90 per cent. of all the available credits within the code and all the mandatory elements. To achieve the credits within the "Energy Labelled White Goods" (Ene 5) category of the code, either a washer dryer or a tumble dryer that has at least a B rating under the EU Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme must be installed or information on the EU Energy Labelling Scheme is provided to each dwelling. There is also a credit available within the code for providing a space for air drying clothes.

Housing: Young People

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure access to supported accommodation for vulnerable young adults who abuse alcohol and other substances. [225486]

Mr. Iain Wright: As part of our drug strategy, 'Drugs: protecting families and communities' (February 2008), we will be encouraging local authorities to work with partners to meet locally-identified need for housing and support for those affected by drug use, including young people. We will also work to develop more personalised approaches to treatment services, to help us best support those leaving and planning to leave treatment with packages of support to access appropriate housing.

Through the Housing Corporation's affordable housing programme we are providing capital investment to deliver affordable housing for vulnerable groups including young adults who abuse alcohol and other substances. In 2007-08 the Housing Corporation approved over £30 million for social rented schemes to assist young people at risk and people with alcohol related problems.

The Supporting People programme funds housing-related support services to vulnerable people, including young people at risk and people with alcohol and/or drug problems. In the financial year 2006-07, £42,506,026 of supporting people funding was spent on services in England for people with drug or alcohol problems.

Land: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects Milton Keynes Unitary Authority to publish its landscape character assessment. [224927]

Mr. Iain Wright: As a result of the Planning Inspector's recommendations on Policy S11 (Areas of Attractive Landscape) and the adoption of the Milton Keynes Local Plan, the council identified that further work was needed to formulate a workable policy approach for the Core Strategy and other Local Development Plan Documents.

This has led to the preparation of two documents—the Local Landscape Designations Study (October 2006) and the draft Landscape Character Assessment (March 2007) both prepared by the Landscape Partnership. The draft Landscape Character Assessment covers the rural part of the borough. The next stage is to seek wider views of borough residents in order to assess the extent to which the different landscapes are valued. This work is currently under way and is being taken forward via a randomised postal survey to households and will be incorporated into the final version of the LCA. This is expected to be published in January 2009.

Local Authorities: Investment Returns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance has been given to local authorities on maximising returns on their investments. [226571]

John Healey: Government guidance to local government on investments, which was issued in 2004 following the 2003 Local Government Act, emphasises that priority should be given to the security and liquidity of invested funds. The guidance says that it would be appropriate for local authorities to seek the highest rate of return, but makes clear that this should be consistent with the proper levels of security and liquidity.

The guidance is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/lginvest2.pdf

Local Authorities: Mortgages

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will reduce the national rate for local authority mortgages. [225744]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* The SNR is regularly reviewed in line with building society lending rates as required by the 1985 Act. At present the rate remains at 6.89 per cent.

Local Authorities: Standards

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on the future use of best value practices by local authorities. [225650]

John Healey: Local authorities are under a general duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which their functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. How authorities fulfil this best value duty is largely left to their discretion.

Under the provisions of Part 7 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 we have streamlined best value and refocused it away from prescribed process and more towards involving local people. Best value now gives authorities more discretion in the way they achieve continuous improvement in their functions better reflecting the needs of local people.

On 9 July 2008 we issued statutory guidance to best value authorities and their partners on creating strong, safe and prosperous communities. This includes guidance on how best value authorities should continue to meet their best value duty under the new regime. It also covers their duties around Local Area Agreements. The guidance can be found on the Communities website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprosperous

Local Authorities: Surveillance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities will be able to use directed surveillance under the provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to monitor tensions between different communities. [225634]

Mr. Khan: Local authorities are permitted under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') to access some types of communications data (including billing and subscriber data), to use directed surveillance (essentially covert surveillance in public places) and deploy covert human intelligence sources (such as undercover officials or informants) for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or disorder.

RIPA requires that authorisation of any of these covert investigatory techniques must be necessary and proportionate to what the local authority seeks to achieve. DCLG is not aware of any local authorities using the powers available under RIPA to conduct their tension monitoring. RIPA also provides for independent oversight to ensure that local authority authorisations of these techniques meet RIPA requirements. It is a matter for the local authority and the Office of Surveillance Commissioners, the oversight body for directed surveillance, having regard to the circumstances of a particular case as to whether individual authorisations fulfil those requirements.

Tension monitoring is not a mandatory requirement for local authorities. Local authorities and their partners will wish to take legal advice to ensure that their local tension monitoring arrangements are lawful.

Local Authorities: Waste Management

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there will be a presumption or expectation that local authorities in a two-tier area should join a joint waste authority. [226372]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Under powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, local authorities that wish to work together to discharge their waste functions can submit a proposal to the Secretary of State requesting the establishment of a statutory Joint Waste Authority (JWA). There will be no element of compulsion: it is for authorities to determine whether JWA status is appropriate for their area and whether they wish to pursue this voluntary option for partnership working.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much local government business growth initiative funding has been given to Bassetlaw Council over the last four years. [226257]

John Healey: Bassetlaw district council has received a total of £1,502,509.88 in LABGI funding in the last four years, made up as follows:

Year funding received	*Amount of funding (£)*
2005-06	443,074.88
2006-07	614,504
2007-08	444,931
Total	1,502,509.88

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requests her Department has received from Bassetlaw Council for new local government business growth initiative funding. [226273]

John Healey: None.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to local authorities and public corporations in relation to investing or depositing in overseas or foreign-owned banks. [226570]

John Healey: CLG's guidance on local government investments issued under section 15 of the Local Government Act 2003 is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/lginvest2.pdf

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of how the financial situation in Iceland's banks has affected the investments of UK local authorities. [226614]

John Healey: The Economic Secretary to the Treasury and I met the Local Government Association (LGA) on 9 October to discuss local authorities' investments in Icelandic banks. At that meeting it was agreed that, once the LGA has completed its urgent analysis of the effects of the situation on individual local authorities, we will look at issues arising on a case by case basis.

The joint statement issued by the Government and the LGA following the meeting is on the CLG website at:

www.communities.gov.uk

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to respond to the letter to her dated 22 July from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Miss C. Doran. [225390]

Mr. Khan: A response has now been sent to my right hon. Friend.

National Fraud Initiative

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the use the National Fraud Initiative has made of information from joint bank accounts on the financial affairs of spouses. [225020]

Mr. Khan: The NFI is a data matching exercise carried out by the Audit Commission to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. Data matching involves comparing sets of data, such as the payroll or benefits records of a body, against other records held by the same or another body to see how far they match. A number of different data set types are collected for the NFI, including payroll data. The limited type of payroll data collected includes the bank account number and sort code details of the employee. Transactions relating to the bank account cannot be accessed or disclosed within NFI. NFI data matching is based on a combination of the data subject's surname, forename, date of birth, national insurance number or address depending on the data available for the match and/or the desired outcome from the data match. NFI does not collect the name in which the bank account is held, so has no way of linking the employee details back to a partner/spouse.

The intelligence that bank account details provides ensures that investigators prioritise their resources on cases where employment income has potentially been withheld (e.g. in an undeclared bank account) when benefits are claimed. For example, matches between payroll and housing benefit claimants can reveal whether the bank accounts declared to the employer or the housing benefit paying body are the same or different.

The effectiveness of such matches in identifying potential fraud would be reduced if joint accounts were excluded from the exercise as employees could use a joint account to escape detection.

Planning: Environment Protection

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect of planning policy guidance on the preservation of back-garden land and maintenance of bio-diversity in urban and suburban neighbourhoods. [225582]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is for local planning authorities, in consultation with communities, to decide the priorities for housing development in their area within an overall national target that 60 per cent. of development should be on previously developed land.

If local authorities wish to preserve existing residential areas from over-development then they are able, under PPS3, to develop policies that set out the circumstances in which applications will and will not be considered.

Planning: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what area of land situated on the western border of the M1, in the Milton Keynes unitary authority area is currently subject to *(a)* outline and *(b)* detailed planning permission; and what percentage this represents of all land in that area. [225351]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held by central Government, as detailed monitoring of planning permissions is the responsibility of the relevant local authority.

Information on extant planning permissions for housing and employment development across the whole authority area will be available from the council's local development framework annual monitoring report. Milton Keynes council should be able to supply more detailed information if required.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which bodies are the planning authorities for the land *(a)* on the eastern boundary of the M1 and *(b)* on the western boundary of the M1 in the Milton Keynes unitary authority area. [225352]

Mr. Khan: Milton Keynes borough council is the planning authority for land to the east of the M1 within the Milton Keynes unitary authority area. It is also planning authority for areas west of the M1 motorway within the unitary authority area, except for areas where the Milton Keynes Partnership exercises planning controls, as set out in the Milton Keynes (Urban Area and Planning Functions) Order of 2004.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* cost of additional bridges required to cross the M1 to facilitate the proposed development in the latest edition of the South East Plan east of the M1 in Milton Keynes. [225353]

Mr. Khan: The Government's proposed changes to the draft South East Plan are currently out for consultation, and views are being sought. The closing date for comments is 24 October.

The South East Plan will provide a broad development strategy for the region for a 20-year period. Once completed, this overarching strategy will be taken forward by more local and detailed planning strategies, implementation plans and development schemes, each of which will make an assessment of the level of infrastructure needed to support new development. For this reason it is not possible to state the number or cost of any new bridges required to support potential development east of the M1 at Milton Keynes.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effects of development east of the M1 proposed in the most recent revisions of the South East Plan on traffic congestion on key routes into Milton Keynes, with particular reference to junctions 13 and 14 of the M1. [225354]

Mr. Khan: The draft South East Plan is intended to provide a broad development strategy for the region for a 20-year period, and as such it is not possible to forecast the precise impacts of new development at this strategic scale. More detailed matters including the planning and delivery of infrastructure requirements will be addressed through local development frameworks produced by local authorities in partnership with the development industry. Any new proposals would be expected to meet Government policy requirements to support public transport and assist modal shift from car-based transport.

Government are currently inviting views on their proposed changes to the draft South East Plan and would welcome any comments submitted by the closing date of 24 October.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the latest proposed revision of the South East Plan has preferred development east of the M1 in Milton Keynes Unitary authority area over development to the south-east and south-west of the city. [225355]

Mr. Khan: The document setting out the Government's proposed changes to the draft South East Plan contains a schedule of reasons for the changes, including a section on development east of the Ml motorway at Milton Keynes. These proposed changes are currently out for public consultation and views are being sought. The closing date for comments is 24 October. Copies can be viewed in the House of Commons Library or obtained from the Government Office for the South East.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from the Milton Keynes Partnerships on the proposed development east of the M1 in Milton Keynes contained in the most recent version of the South East Plan. [225857]

Mr. Khan: The South East Plan remains in draft form, and consultation on proposed changes to the plan is currently under way. Any representations to the draft consultation will need to be made through the formal consultation process, where they will be taken into account when Government finalise the plan. The closing date for comments to be made is 24 October. No representations have yet been received from Milton Keynes Partnership.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account was taken of views of local residents in the decision to approve the proposed development east of the M1 in Milton Keynes as part of the proposed revision of the South East Plan. [225858]

Mr. Khan: Development east of the M1 motorway at Milton Keynes is included in the Government's proposed changes to the draft South East Plan. These proposed changes are currently out for public consultation and views are now being sought. The closing date for comments is 24 October. Copies can obtained from the Government Office for the South-East (GOSE) or accessed through the GOSE website

www.gose.gov.uk.

Planning: Public Participation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has commissioned on the extent to which people feel they are able to influence planning decisions *(a)* locally and *(b)* nationally since 2007. [225443]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has not commissioned any research on this specific topic since 2007.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by her Department and its predecessors has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [221978]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) on 8 October, *Official Report*, columns 663-64W.

Rates and Rating: Ports

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with other Departments on the issuing of backdated bills by the Valuation Office Agency in respect of the change from prescriptive rating of docks and harbours to rating by conventional methods. [226319]

John Healey: Departments are in contact all the time, in the interests of gathering information about the impacts of Government policies, including between officials from Communities and Local Government, Treasury and Department for Transport on this matter.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation was held before the decision to change from prescriptive rating of docks and harbours to rating by conventional methods; and when that consultation took place. [226376]

John Healey: Consultation about removal of the power of the Secretary of State to prescribe rateable values was undertaken in "Modernising Local Government Finance: A Green Paper" published by DETR in September 2000 available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/greenpap/index.htm

in "Strong Local Leadership—Quality Public Service" a White Paper published by ODPM (CM 5237 December 2001); and through the Consultation Paper published by OPDM in June 2002 alongside the Draft Local Government Bill and scrutinised by the House of Commons Transport, Local Government and the Regions Committee (the report (Fifteenth Report of Session 2001/02—HC 981-1) and proceedings of the Committee are available at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200102/cmselect/cmtlgr/981/98102.htm#evidence)

Rented Housing: Private Sector

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the outcome of the Review of Private Rented Sector Housing announced by the former Housing and Planning Minister on 23 January 2008 will be published. [226573]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Review of the Private Rented Sector, carried out by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes at the Centre for Housing Policy at the university of York, will be published on 23 October 2008.

Supporting People Programme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what budget was given to each local authority for the Supporting People programme in each of the last three years. [225441]

Mr. Khan: I refer my hon. Friend to the announcement on local government finance by the Minister for Local Government on 5 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 627-30, for the two-year Supporting People settlement covering 2006-07 and 2007-08 allocations, and to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, confirming Supporting People final grant allocations for 2008-09. Tables showing the Supporting People allocations were placed in the House of Commons Library following each of these statements, and in these my hon. Friend will find the Supporting People budget given to each local authority in each of the last three years.

Terrorism

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the implementation of point 11 of the then Prime Minister's 12-point counter-terrorism plan issued in August 2005. [226069]

Mr. Khan: On progress against the 12-point plan, I refer the hon. Member to the update provided by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1594W.

On the consultation referred to in point 11 in the 12-point plan, I refer the hon. Member to the statement laid by the then Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Charles Clarke) on 15 December 2005. The Department for Communities and Local Government is supporting Muslim communities to build the resilience of mosques and Muslim faith leaders to violent extremism. I refer the hon. Member to a document published by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 18 July 2008: 'Preventing Violent Extremism: Next Steps for Communities'. I have placed a copy of the document in the Library of the House.

Thames Gateway: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding is available to the Thames Gateway over the next three years; and what direct democratic controls are in place to monitor the use of that funding. [224614]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information is as follows:

Departmental allocations to the Thames Gateway Programme as at 6 October 2008

£ million

Type of funding	*Financial year*			
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Near cash	17	19	19	57
Non cash	3	4	5	12
Capital	155	155	155	465
Total	175	178	179	532

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Margaret Beckett) has responsibility for monitoring the use of Thames Gateway funding and is answerable to Parliament. Further to this, local authorities monitor the use of funding through their local regeneration and economic development plans.

The Thames Gateway Executive publishes an annual report describing capital expenditure in the Thames Gateway. This is available to the general public on Communities and Local Government's website, as well as to Members of this House in the House Library.

Urban Areas: Research

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 345W, on the INTERREG programme: finance, if she will place in the Library a copy of the final report or conclusions of the POLYNET project. [222895]

John Healey: The Department has investigated the scope to place a copy of the book "The Polycentric Metropolis", which contains the conclusions of the POLYNET project, in the Library. However, I am informed that the book is not a Government publication. It was written and edited by Peter Hall and Kathy Pain and was published by Earthscan Publications Ltd. in July 2006. Electronic copies of the book are unavailable. Hard copies of the book, priced £99, may be ordered online from them at:

http://www.earthscan.co.uk

Waste Management

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what national guidance she issues on consultation of local residents on the construction of new waste management facilities. [222721]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

The Government reformed the planning system in 2005 with the publication of a new planning policy statement 10. It is too early for the benefits of this reform to have been fully felt, but actions to support local authorities remain a high priority for DEFRA and CLG. For example, in August 2007, DEFRA's Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme published guidance on improving the interaction of local authorities with waste planning. It underlines that the approach to community engagement, taken by those seeking to secure permissions for waste infrastructure projects, is critical to all stages of both the planning process and preparation of the municipal waste management strategies by local

authorities. Furthermore, DEFRA requires local authorities, as part of the application process for PFI credits for residual waste treatment facilities, to set out their strategy relating to community engagement.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CDC

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) if he will place in the Library copies of the reports containing the assessment of development impact produced by CDC for the consideration of the Best Practice and Development Committee; [225060]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of the reports received by CDC from its fund managers under the CDC/Actis umbrella agreement on procedures to deliver policies. [225061]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The evaluation reports that the management of CDC produces for CDC's Business Principles and Development Committee and the reports it receives from its fund managers are produced for CDC's own internal use. The reports are prepared on the understanding that information provided by CDC's counterparties will not be disclosed, and contain information that is commercially sensitive. It would therefore not be appropriate to place these in the House of Commons Library.

China

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department allocated to cover expenses associated with employees, offices and funded projects in China in each of the last three years. [225413]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The cost of staff and facilities management are shown in the following table.

	£
2005-06	2,838,340
2006-07	2,517,508
2007-08	2,342,892

Departmental Aviation

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1831-32W, on departmental aviation, if he will place in the Library a list of the starting point and destination of each flight. [222209]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A list containing the information requested will be placed in the Library.

Humanitarian Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the principles of good practice in humanitarian aid are to which donors commit in the good humanitarian donorship process. [224137]

Mr. Michael Foster: In June 2003, 17 donor Governments met in Stockholm, and endorsed 23 principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship. These principles state that their humanitarian work will be;

Guided by the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence;

Promote adherence to international humanitarian, refugee and human rights law;

Ensure flexible, timely and predictable funding

Allocate funding in proportion to needs;

Involve beneficiaries in the design and evaluation of humanitarian response;

Strengthen local capacity to prevent, prepare for and mitigate crises;

Support the UN, the Red Cross and NGOs; and affirm the primacy of civilian organisations in humanitarian action;

Support learning and accountability initiatives, and encourage regular evaluation;

The 23 principles of good humanitarian donorship are listed in full on the Good Humanitarian Donorship website:

http://www.goodhumanitariandonorship.org/

Iraq: Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the education system in Iraq. [224992]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since 2003, the Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided any direct financial assistance to develop the education sector in Iraq. We have, however, contributed £70 million to the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI), which encompasses two trust funds administered by the United Nations and World Bank. 25 donors have committed over $1.8 billion to IRFFI since 2003. This money has been used to provide assistance in a range of sectors and development projects across Iraq. In the education sector, the UN has now allocated from IRFFI $190 million and the World Bank $106 million on 29 projects which include the rehabilitation of schools, the provision of essential text books, and the training of Iraqi teachers.

Iraq: Employment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent support the Government have given to the development of employment opportunities in Iraq. [224993]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We believe that the best way to develop employment opportunities in Iraq is to support the Iraqis to stimulate economic growth through the private sector. To achieve this, the UK is supporting two institutions—the Basra Development Commission (BDC) and Basra Investment Commission (BIC). The Department for International Development (DFID) is also looking at ways to improve the availability of credit to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Co-chaired by Michael Wareing, the CEO of KPMG International, the BDC is bringing international and regional private sector expertise to Southern Iraq, and working on a range of economic projects. Most recently,

the BDC launched a youth employment scheme (YES) which aims to provide an initial 500 vocational training placements for unemployed youths to work with local businesses, after which the businesses will offer them permanent employment. This scheme is modelled on best practice adopted by Business in the Community in the UK.

The BDC is also working with the Iraqi National Investment Commission (NIC) to facilitate visits to Iraq for the investors interested in commercial opportunities—11 such visits have now taken place. These investors are looking at taking forward projects with a potential value in excess of $4 billion and employing 1,200 to 1,500 people in the first year alone.

Katacha: Overseas Aid

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government's contribution to provision of food, medicine, education and army disengagement in the Katacha homeland is. [224602]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) contributions in 2008 through the Common Humanitarian Fund for humanitarian and early recovery activities in Southern Kordofan are:

	$
Education and culture	660,000
Health and nutrition	1,076,000
Security and livelihoods	1,191,000

It is not possible to disaggregate these figures for the Katcha homeland. DFID also contributes to the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), which in 2007 provided at least US$9 million for South Kordofan.

The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has promoted and supported the integration of informal militia into the armed forces of the Northern and Southern Governments, as well as the redeployment of these forces. The UK Government have worked closely with UNMIS on this, including in Southern Kordofan, and provide financial support indirectly through their assessed contributions to the UN in New York.

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the £264 million in centrally-issued contracts in 2007-08 was distributed amongst aid agencies. [224144]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details of all centrally issued contracts since January 2005 are available on the Department for International Development's website;

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement/contractslet.asp.

This includes the project/programme title, name of supplier, the related sector and contract award value. Low value contracts issued by our overseas offices are not recorded centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to collate this information.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the international development spending by the devolved Administrations is included in his Department's calculation of the UK's total official development assistance; and if he will make a statement. [225577]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK's reporting of official development assistance (ODA) has included data on the Scottish Government's aid programme since 2005. No data are reported for the Welsh Assembly Government or the Northern Ireland Executive.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the financial position was of each recipient country's allocated budget, with regard to *(a)* allocation, *(b)* draw down and *(c)* expenditure, in each of the last five years. [225860]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 106W. Further information is available in the Department for International Development's (DFID) Annual Report which is available online:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/departmental-report/2008/default.asp

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 792W, on Pakistan: overseas aid, if he will place in the Library a copy of the last annual review of his Department's funding to North West Frontier Province. [225628]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We are unable to provide a single annual review of our funding activities in North West Frontier Province, as our annual reviews are undertaken on an individual programme and project basis rather than by province.

To date our support to North West Frontier Province has been provided mainly through federal level programmes (for example in health). Our portfolio with the provincial government is relatively new and only one programme, the Rural Water and Sanitation Programme, has so far been subject to an annual review. A copy of this review will be placed in the Library.

Palestinians: Humanitarian Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* amount and *(b)* proportion of the Government's contribution to the additional humanitarian funding for the Palestinian Authority pledged by the European Union at the United Nations on Monday 22 September is. [225062]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The European Commission (EG) pledged an additional €82 million in financial support to the Palestinian Authority's budget, including €1 million in earmarked funding from Austria. It will be used to help pay for salaries and pensions, social allowances to vulnerable Palestinian families and fuel for the power plant to provide electricity to the people of Gaza.

The UK's overall share of the EC budget for 2008 is 15.8 per cent., which implies that the UK share of the €81 million pledge is €12.8 million (£10.1 million). The UK has directly provided a further £50.45 million in bilateral financial support to the Palestinian Authority's budget in 2008.

South America: Research

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what companies are contracted to carry out the £50 million project for research and capacity building in Latin America and Asia; and how they were chosen. [224139]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) in partnership with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) have just completed scoping studies to identify priority themes and geographic locations for the proposed climate change adaptation in Asia and Latin America research programme. The Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) carried out the Asia work. The Foundation for the Future of Latin America (Fundacion Futuro Lationoamerica - FFLA) carried out the Latin America work. Both organisations were contracted by IDRC. We are currently considering the results of these studies.

DFID will be able to comment on plans for implementation when the detailed programme design is completed.

South Asia: Childbirth

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report, column* 1042W, on South Asia: childbirth, what assessment he has made of the effects of his Department's funding for India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal on the proportion of births attended by a skilled attendant in those countries; what the child mortality rate has been in each country in each year since 1998-99; and what initiatives his Department has utilised to reduce child mortality and increase the provision of skilled attendants at birth in those countries. [223851]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides funding in South Asia to the governments of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh to strengthen health services. This includes initiatives to increase the provision of skilled attendants at birth, and to reduce infant and child mortality. For details of DFID funded programmes you may refer to my answer of 18 June 2008 *Official Report,* column 1042W.

Currently close to half of women in India and a third of women in Pakistan are being assisted by a skilled birth attendant at delivery. There has been substantial progress since the early 1990s, when only one third of women in India and one fifth of women in Pakistan were assisted by a skilled birth attendant. Bangladesh and Nepal have also recorded improvements in skilled birth attendance rates over the past five years. In 2006 one fifth of women in these countries was delivered by a skilled birth attendant.

DFID has been assessing progress in skilled birth attendants and reductions in infant and child mortality in partnership with country Governments, UN and other development organizations. DFID support for assessment includes the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and district health and facility surveys in India; in Pakistan, the Federal Bureau of Statistics, and in Bangladesh, the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research (ICDDR.B); in Nepal, maternal mortality and morbidity studies and vital registration systems. Progress on skilled birth attendance and child mortality rates for South Asia countries are set out in the following table.

Country	*Skilled birth attendant rates (%)*	*Under-five mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births)*
India		
1998-99	43	95
2005-06	47	74
Bangladesh		
1999-2000	12	94
2006	20	65
Pakistan		
1990-91	19	117
2006-07	39[1]	94
Nepal		
2001	11	91
2006	19	61

[1] The 18 June 2008 response to PQ 211728 referred to a figure of 54 per cent. of births in Pakistan attended by a skilled attendant. This is for first order births only. The figure for all births is 39 per cent.

Source:
Demographic Health Surveys (DHS) in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal; National Family Health Survey (NFHS) in India; Government of Bangladesh.

UN Convention on Watercourses

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for the UK's accession to the UN Convention on the Law of Non-Navigable Uses of International Watercourses; and if he will make a statement. [222231]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell) on 17 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 828W.

Youth Parliaments

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which overseas youth parliaments his Department has funded in the last five years; and how much his Department has provided for each. [226180]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided the following support to youth parliaments and related programmes:

DFID is providing £800,000 to the Commonwealth Youth Programme (2008-09), managed by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The programme supports the organisation of national youth councils in Commonwealth member states, and regional caucuses of young people, through which they can debate the issues of the day with Ministers responsible for youth.

Over the past two years, DFID funding has also supported a five-day Children's Parliament in Namibia, as part of a Southern Africa regional programme of support to the UNICEF "Children and AIDS Regional Initiative". The programme has also established forums through which children engage with and learn about legislative processes in South Africa, and national and district level governance. These activities form part of the wider £18 million regional programme.

TREASURY

Bank Notes

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which banks are authorised to issue their own bank notes; and in what circumstances such authority would be revoked. [225498]

Ian Pearson: The Bank of England is authorised to issue notes throughout the United Kingdom. In addition, Bank of Scotland plc, the Royal Bank of Scotland plc and Clydesdale Bank plc are authorised to issue in Scotland; and the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland, Ulster Bank Ltd., First Trust Bank (a trading name of AIB Group (UK) plc) and Northern Bank Ltd. are authorised to issue in Northern Ireland.

If any of these commercial banks should become bankrupt, cease to carry on the business of a banker, or discontinue the issue of bank notes, it may not issue notes thereafter.

Child Benefit: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of callers to the Child Benefit Helpline whose call was logged with the promise of a call back received a call back in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [225583]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the length of time is of the automated message on the Child Benefit Helpline; and if he will make a statement. [225584]

Mr. Timms: HMRC uses several different automated messages on the Child Benefit Helpline. These include messages played when the customer is first connected, at particularly busy times and when the customer is held in a queue. The length of message varies from 10 seconds to 27 seconds.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost per minute is of calls made to the Child Benefit Helpline; and if he will make a statement. [225585]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the former Financial Secretary (Jane Kennedy) gave the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 51W.

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and with which institutions he has invested child trust fund contributions that have been unclaimed by families. [224644]

Ian Pearson: Eligibility to the child trust fund is not subject to a claim. Where parents do not use the Government voucher to open an account themselves HMRC opens an account for the child instead. Up to 30 June 2007 the total number of child trust fund accounts opened by HM Revenue and Customs under these default arrangements was 858,000. These accounts are allocated on a strictly rotational basis to those 16 providers who have volunteered to take these accounts. A current list of these providers is obtainable at the following address:

http://www.childtrustfund.gov.uk/templates/Page_1320.aspx

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families with low incomes have not claimed the child trust fund payment since 2005. [224648]

Ian Pearson: No families have failed to claim the child trust fund payment since 2005 as no claim is necessary. All UK resident children in a child benefit award, who are born on or after 1 September 2002 and who are not subject to immigration control, will have a child trust fund account.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many dwellings in Wales have had their council tax banding amended upwards since the initial 2005 council tax revaluation process, according to records held by the Valuation Office Agency, expressed in terms of the *(a)* original and *(b)* revised banding. [225445]

Mr. Timms: Statistics, showing all cases where the listing officer has made a change since 1 April 2005 as a result of an inquiry or an appeal, can be found on the Valuation Office Agency website at

www.voa.gov.uk.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which parliamentary constituencies his predecessor visited between 6 May 2005 and 6 May 2006; on what dates each such visit took place; and what the purpose of each such visit was. [225403]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers regularly visit all parts of the country on Government business.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which parliamentary constituencies his predecessor visited between 6 May 2006 and 27 June 2007; on what dates each such visit was made; and what the purpose of each such visit was. [225410]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers regularly visit all parts of the country on Government business.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many times his predecessor visited *(a)* Cardiff, *(b)* Edinburgh, *(c)* Swansea, *(d)* Glasgow, *(e)* Aberdeen and *(f)* Dundee between 2 May 1997 and 8 June 1999; on what dates he made such visits; and what the purpose was of each visit; [224942]

(2) how many times his predecessor visited *(a)* Cardiff, *(b)* Edinburgh, *(c)* Swansea, *(d)* Glasgow, *(e)* Aberdeen and *(f)* Dundee between 8 June 1998 and 8 June 1999; on what dates he made such visits; and what the purpose was of each visit. [224943]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers regularly visit all parts of the country on Government business.

Economic Situation: Bank Services

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the international banking turbulence on *(a)* public sector pay policy, *(b)* fuel prices, *(c)* utility bills and *(d)* food prices in the UK. [224736]

Ian Pearson: The Government will provide an updated assessment of developments and prospects for the UK and world economy, including prices, in the pre-Budget report, based on all relevant factors, as normal. The objectives of the Government's pay policy remain: to recruit and retain high quality work forces; affordability and value for money for the tax payer; and consistency with achievement of the inflation target.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Government have made of the number of UK employees who may be made redundant due to the recent uncertainty in the international banking sector, broken down by region. [224738]

Ian Pearson: Consistent with the practices of previous Governments, the Treasury does not publish labour market forecasts.

Economic Situation: Economic Growth

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect which would result from 1 per cent. lower growth in the economy in a year on the published annual deficit. [224941]

Angela Eagle: The latest public finance projections were published in Budget 2008. A full assessment of the impact of changes in the economic outlook on the public finances will be provided in the normal way in the forthcoming 2008 pre-Budget report.

Equitable Life: Compensation

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he intends to provide a compensation package for Equitable Life investors. [225099]

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many Equitable Life policyholders are estimated to be affected by the regulatory failure set out in the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report Equitable Life: A Decade of Regulatory Failure; [225814]

(2) what progress has been made towards the implementation of a compensation scheme for those Equitable Life policyholders who the Parliamentary Ombudsman identified as having undergone a loss as a consequence of regulatory failure; [225815]

(3) what estimate has been made of the cost to the Government of compensating former Equitable Life policyholders under the recommendations set out by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report Equitable Life: A Decade of Regulatory Failure. [225816]

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take following publication of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report on the regulatory supervision of Equitable Life; and if he will make a statement. [226578]

Ian Pearson: As my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, told this House on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 287, the Government will report on Equitable Life shortly.

Expenditure: Asylum

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of expenditure from the public purse on asylum seekers in each of the last 11 years *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* adjusted for inflation. [224559]

Angela Eagle: An estimate of total public expenditure on asylum seekers can be produced only at a disproportionate cost.

Expenditure: Sport

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the progress achieved by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in achieving the target set by his Department to raise £20 million per year in private sector support for elite sport; what plans he has to guarantee the funding; and if he will make a statement. [224761]

Yvette Cooper: DCMS continue to make progress towards raising private sector support for elite sport. Fast Track Sales were appointed as the Department's official adviser in July this year. Fast Track are working with DCMS and UK Sport on the detail of the 'Medal Hopes' funding scheme which it is hoped will attract sponsorship from national, regional and local businesses to help realise the potential of those athletes on UK Sport's World Class Performance Programme.

Finance: Department for Culture Media and Sport

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets for asset sales have been set for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in each of the next three years. [224865]

Yvette Cooper: The 2007 comprehensive spending review required all Departments to publish an asset management strategy. DCMS' asset management strategy will set out an asset disposal plan and indicate expected asset disposals over the CSR.

Finance: Devolution

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish his Department's factual paper on the operation of the Barnett formula. [225021]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 21 July, *Official Report*, column 729W.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if his Department will consider the report, Unequal Shares: The Definitive Guide to the Barnett Formula, published by the Taxpayers' Alliance. [225022]

Yvette Cooper: The devolved funding arrangements were updated in the Statement of Funding Policy published by the Treasury in October 2007.

Financial Services Authority

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the operational independence of the Financial Services Authority. [224683]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is an independent non-governmental body, given statutory powers by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. This statutory independence means that the Government do not have any control over the day-to-day running of the organisation. However, the FSA is still accountable to Parliament, Government, the public and industry in a number of ways including the requirement for the FSA to publish an annual report on the discharge of its functions and the extent to which its regulatory objectives have been met.

Fireworks: Imports

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date a prosecution was last made against an importing company for giving false information to HM Revenue and Customs in relation to the licensed destination site for imported fireworks. [226687]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs prosecutions are undertaken by the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO). RCPO has advised that it has no record of any prosecution made under section 11 of the Fireworks Regulations 2004 against an importing company for giving false information to HM Revenue and Customs in relation to the licensed destination site for imported fireworks.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals pay more income tax following the abolition of the 10 pence band as modified by the changes announced on 13 May; and if he will break down the data according to those earning *(a)* under £10,000, *(b)* between £10,000 and £15,000, *(c)* between £15,000 and £20,000 and *(d)* above £20,000 a year. [225223]

Mr. Timms: The Government's memorandum to the Treasury Committee inquiry "Budget Measures and Low-Income Households" explained that information relating to the Budget 2007 reforms can be provided only on a household basis.

A breakdown of the remaining households that are still paying more net tax than they were prior to the Budget 2007 reforms, following the changes announced on 13 May, can be found in the answer to Q15 of Annex A of the Government memorandum.

Income Tax: Tax Yields

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the income received from income tax revenues came from *(a)* the top 1 per cent. of earners, *(b)* the top 5 per cent. of earners, *(c)* the top 10 per cent. of earners, *(d)* the top 25 per cent. of earners, *(e)* the lowest 50 per cent. of earners, *(f)* the lowest 25 per cent. of earners and *(g)* the lowest 10 per cent. of earners in (i) 1975, (ii) 1980, (iii) 1985, (iv) 1990, (v) 1997, (vi) 2000 and (vii) each year since 2000. [225568]

Mr. Timms: Information on the shares of income tax paid by different percentiles of taxpayers for the period 1999-2000 to 2008-09 is set out in Table 2.4 "Shares of total income (before and after tax) and income tax for percentile groups" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

The share of income tax for percentile groups of taxpayers, premised on total income before tax, for tax years 1990-91 and 1997-98, is set out in the following table. The data are based on the "Survey of Personal Incomes".

	1990-91	*Percentage 1997-98*
Lowest		
10 per cent.	0.7	0.8
25 per cent.	4.0	3.3
50 per cent.	15.8	13.0
Highest		
25 per cent.	62.2	67.4
10 per cent.	40.8	47.5
5 per cent.	30.1	37.2
1 per cent.	14.2	19.5

The information covering parts (i) to (iii) of the right hon. Member's question is not available.

Insurance: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for insurance companies of the cost of repairs to houses affected by the recent floods. [225402]

Ian Pearson: Her Majesty's Treasury maintains a close dialogue with the insurance industry that includes the implications to the industry of the costs of flooding.

Landfill Tax

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely financial effects of changes in the landfill tax escalator on local authorities over the next two years. [225580]

Angela Eagle: The costs of landfill tax, including the increase in the landfill tax escalator, were taken into account when agreeing the local government settlement.

Local Income Tax: Scotland

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the implementation of the powers of the Scottish Parliament to alter existing arrangements for local taxes; and if he will make a statement. [225496]

Yvette Cooper: Treasury Ministers discuss a range of issues from time to time with the Scottish Executive.

Marginal Tax Rates

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people with marginal tax deduction rates of *(a)* between 50 to 60 per cent., *(b)* between 60 to 70 per cent., *(c)* between 70 to 80 per cent., *(d)* between 80 to 90 per cent. and *(e)* between 90 to 100 per cent. and *(f)* over 100 per cent. in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [226206]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the number of families with marginal deduction rates above 60 per cent. have been published in Budget reports since 1999 (table 4.2 in Budget 2008 shows the latest estimates). Comparable estimates over time for those with marginal deduction rates below 60 per cent. are not available.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the chief executive of HM Revenue and Customs received the letter dated 24 September 2008 from the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on his constituent, reference chm/08593/2008; and when he expects the matter to be resolved. [226106]

Mr. Timms: The acting Chief Executive Officer of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) received a letter dated 16 September 2008 from the right hon. Gentleman on 22 September 2008. He will be writing to him this week to explain the circumstances surrounding his constituent's tax credits claim. HMRC will also be sending his constituent the tax credits payments that are due.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer the letter dated 26th August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr Raja Afzal, transferred to his Department from the Department of Work and Pensions. [226546]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Members: Meetings

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will meet the hon. Member for Nottingham North to discuss early intervention. [225190]

Angela Eagle: Ministers are always happy to meet to discuss issues, when this is appropriate.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 880W, on departmental NDPBs, how many times his Department has been asked to approve *(a)* capital projects of £6 million and above, *(b)* gifts and non-statutory contingent liabilities of £100,000 and above, *(c)* spending which exceeded limits set out in the relevant financial memoranda and *(d)* spending which could have set a potentially expensive precedent, caused repercussions for others or which was novel or contentious by bodies which the Department for Culture, Media and Sport sponsors in each of the last five years. [218762]

Yvette Cooper: The Treasury keeps proposals for spending above delegated limits, and spending which would be novel and contentious, under review as part of an on-going discussion among officials. Detail of all discussions is not held centrally and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of his predecessor's response to the letter of 4 May 2007 from John Nichols on behalf of the Urban Redevelopment Chief Executives' Group regarding the impact of the proposed abolition of the empty property relief on business rates; and if he will make a statement. [225302]

Angela Eagle: I have placed a copy of the contents of my official's reply to John Nichols' letter of 4 May 2007 in the Library.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to review recent changes to *(a)* business rates and *(b)* empty properties relief in view of the current economic situation and its effect on small businesses. [226179]

Angela Eagle: The reforms to empty property relief only come into effect in April 2008. The Government keep all taxes and reliefs under review.

Non-Domestic Rates: Tax Yields

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of likely changes to levels of revenues to be received from property business rates over the next three years; and what assessment he has made of the reasons for such changes. [225544]

Mr. Timms: Estimated and projected revenues for business rates for Great Britain, for 2007-08 and 2008-09, are published in table C6 of the Budget 2008 report. Receipts for 2007-08, estimates for 2008-09 and projections for 2009-10 will be published in the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Northern Rock

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the forecast is of total *(a)* losses and *(b)* cash requirements of Northern Rock for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [224938]

Ian Pearson: Northern Rock published a summary of the business plan on 31 March 2008. As stated on 5 August 2008 Northern Rock intends to revise this business plan.

During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from the Government on commercial principles. It is a matter for the company's management to release specific business information and updates or provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

Oil: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many litres of oil were recovered from sites producing illegal fuel oils in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [226242]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. Figures for all Northern Ireland fuel seizures are published in HMRC Autumn Performance Reports, available on the HMRC website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm.

Pensions

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of unfunded pension liabilities in the public sector is. [224940]

Yvette Cooper: The information is available on page 38 of the Long Term Public Finance Report published on 12 March 2008.

PFI: Contracts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual costs of PFI/PPP contracts across the public sector were in the latest period for which figures are available. [224937]

Yvette Cooper: The full list of all signed PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the annual cost, the constituency and the procuring authority.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was to HM Revenue and Customs of compliance and enforcement in each year since 2003-04. [224946]

Mr. Timms: There was a major restructuring of directorates following the merger of the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise on 18 April 2005. Cost figures for the directorates involved in enforcement and compliance activities in the new structure are available from 2006-07.

For 2006-07 the total pay bill costs for the main directorates involved in enforcement and compliance activity was £835 million.

For 2007-08, the total pay bill costs for the main directorates involved in enforcement and compliance activity was £833 million.

Revenue and Customs: Complaints

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable has been set for the Adjudicator's Office by his Department for the completion of investigations into complaints about HM Revenue and Customs. [224898]

Mr. Timms: There is no set timescale for the completion of investigations by the Adjudicator's Office into complaints about HM Revenue and Customs.

Revenue and Customs: Legal Costs

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the costs to date arising from the actions pursued by HM Revenue and Customs against Mr. Philip J. Wright of Rowhedge Road, Colchester, in respect of Regulation 49 of the Income Tax (Employee) Regulations 1993 and section 8 of the Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions etc) Act 1999 for tax relating to the years ending 1999-2000 to 2003-04; and what estimate he has made of the number of staff hours spent on this case. [225661]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs has a statutory duty of taxpayer confidentiality. This precludes the disclosure of information about a taxpayer's affairs publicly or to third parties.

Revenue and Customs: Personal Records

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many instances of the loss of personal documents were recorded by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [225093]

Mr. Timms: Information on the loss of personal documents was not recorded centrally by HMRC and its predecessor Departments throughout this period. Improved central recording of data security incidents, consistent with the recommendations of the Poynter Review, has more recently been put in place.

A summary of the incidents formally reported to the Information Commissioner's office in 2007-08 can be found in HMRC's 2007-08 Accounts at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc_dep_acct0708.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Redundancy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what redundancy costs have *(a)* already been incurred and *(b)* are budgeted for by HM Revenue and Customs in each year from 2002-03 to 2010-11. [224945]

Mr. Timms: HMRC have incurred no redundancy costs to date for staff in the grades below the senior civil service. Post savings in excess of 18,000 have been achieved since 2004 without redundancies.

No specific funding has currently been allocated in the 2008-09, 2009-10 or 2010-11 budgets for redundancy costs, although the possibility of redundancies in this period cannot be ruled out.

Save as You Earn

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to raise the limit for the maximum monthly investment into a Save as You Earn Sharesave plan to £400 to take account of inflation since 1991. [224703]

Ian Pearson: The Government keep all savings incentives under review. The average monthly amount saved by employees under SAYE is considerably less than the current £250 limit.

Tax Rates and Bands

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many UK taxpayers would pay tax at 50 per cent. if a 50 per cent. rate were introduced for taxpayers with annual pay of *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £150,000 and *(c)* £200,000. [224540]

Mr. Timms: The estimated numbers of UK taxpayers in 2008-09 with incomes in excess of the thresholds requested are in the table.

Threshold	*Number of taxpayers with income above the threshold*
£100,000	650,000
£150,000	310,000
£200,000	180,000

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much additional revenue would be raised if a 50 per cent. tax rate were introduced for UK taxpayers receiving annual pay of *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £150,000 and *(c)* £200,000. [224716]

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimated additional revenue would be raised in 2009-10 by increasing the higher rate tax band to 50 per cent. for those with incomes in excess of £100,000 per annum from April 2009. [226211]

Mr. Timms: Table 2a of the Generic Tax Tables 2008-09: "Additional full-year yield from the introduction of additional higher rates of tax on GROSS incomes (Earnings and Savings) over a specific amount" contains comprehensive information on income tax and is available in the Library of the House. The table excludes any estimates of behavioural response which could be significant and might eliminate a large proportion of the yield from any new higher rate band.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he has taken of varying regional impacts of the proposed aviation duty in the formulation of the policy; and if he will publish his Department's modelling of the likely effects of the duty on each region before a decision on implementation is taken. [224994]

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what account he has taken of the potential impact of the proposed aviation duty in each region; [225477]

(2) what modelling has taken place of the impact of the proposed aviation duty in each region; and if he will make a statement. [225478]

Angela Eagle: A formal consultation on the proposed aviation duty was published on 31 January and closed on 24 April 2008.

The details of the tax have not yet been set. The Chancellor of the Exchequer plans to make an announcement in the autumn.

Taxation: Football

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many professional and semi-professional football clubs have entered administration with debts outstanding to HM Revenue and Customs in the last three years. [224916]

Mr. Timms: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Financial Secretary on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 582-3W.

Taxation: Investment Income

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that people who have investment income taxed automatically at 20 per cent. but who are not on PAYE and are not issued with a tax return annually, are made aware that a repayment of tax may be due to them. [225912]

Mr. Timms: HMRC encourages savers to claim back any overpaid tax, using their website, the DirectGov website and a leaflet (IR111) available to all banks and building societies to do so. The HMRC website includes sections on 'Claiming back tax' and 'Guidance on the 10 per cent. starting rate for savings income'.

HMRC will also be running a tax on interest campaign, targeted at pensioners, to encourage those that are non-taxpayers to register their accounts so that they receive their interest without tax deducted and to encourage those who have paid too much tax on their interest to claim it back.

USA Treasury Securities

Angela Browning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in UK holdings of USA Treasury securities there was in each month from April 2005 to August 2008. [226536]

Ian Pearson: The UK Government's US dollar denominated assets are held in the UK's official foreign currency reserves. The Bank of England also holds foreign currency reserves of its own. Information on the exact composition of these assets is market sensitive. More information on how the UK official reserves are managed, including which assets the reserves can be invested in, can be found on the Treasury's websites.

Angela Browning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what communications have taken place since January 2008 between his Department and *(a)* the Governor of the Bank of England and *(b)* the Chief Executive of the Financial Services Authority on the monthly changes from January 2008 to July 2008 of UK holdings of USA Treasury securities. [226537]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Governor of the Bank of England and the chief executive of the Financial Services Authority meet on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of economic and financial issues.

Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will produce a privacy impact assessment for the Valuation Office Agency's Geographical Information System project. [225653]

Mr. Timms: The need for a privacy impact assessment will be considered as part of the due process within the Geographical Information Project.

VAT: Energy

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2308W on VAT: energy, if he will estimate the additional revenue that will be raised from VAT on domestic energy as a result of increases in fuel prices in 2008-09. [225095]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT relating to individual goods and services.

There are practical difficulties in estimating the revenue impact of price changes in specific sectors, as to obtain a true estimate the effects across the wider economy must also be considered. Consumers will change their behaviour and expenditure patterns as specific prices rise.

Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals against a tax credit decision taken by his Department there have been in each *(a)* year and *(b)* month since tax credits were established; and if he will make a statement. [225737]

Mr. Timms: For information up to and including February 2008 I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) and the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 371-72W.

Information for March 2008 to September 2008 is:

Month 2008	*Number of appeals against tax credits decisions*
March	850
April	1,130
May	772
June	866
July	1,128
August	1,093
September	1,116

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many TC846 forms his Department has received disputing a tax credit overpayment in each *(a)* year and *(b)* month since tax credits were established; and if he will make a statement. [225736]

Mr. Timms: For information up to and including 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answers my predecessor gave the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 901-902W, and 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 212W.

The corresponding Information for 2008-09 is:

Month 2008	Households Number of newly disputed overpayments
April	10,500
May	5,800
June	8,500
July	17,800
August	12,100
September	19,500

Working Tax Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on the childcare element of tax credits paid to families in England and Wales who have children under five years of age and who work fewer than 24 hours per week in each year since the element was introduced; and what estimate he has made of equivalent costs in each of the next five years. [225330]

Mr. Timms: The total increase in annualised entitlement due to the child care element is provided in Table 2.4 of the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised annual awards" for each relevant year. These are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

This information is available only at a disproportionate cost by country, age of children, and hours worked per week.

HMRC do not produce forecasts for the individual elements of child and working tax credits.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in England and Wales who have children under five years of age and who work fewer than 24 hours a week have claimed the childcare element of tax credits; and what estimate he has made of the number of families in this group in each of the next five years. [225333]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the average number of families in England and Wales benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit are reported in Table 1B of HMRC's publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses' for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Estimates of the total number of families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit at selected dates, by age group of children, and hours worked per week, are reported in Table 4.4 of HMRC's publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics'. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce estimates of the number of families who will benefit from the child care element in the future.

Working Tax Credits

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families with children aged between one and five years in *(a)* Carshalton and Wallington constituency, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* England have been awarded the childcare element of the working tax credit since the element was introduced. [224969]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, estimates of the total number of families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit, by age group of children, including those under five years, at selected dates are published in Table 4.4 of the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics". These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Estimates of the average number of families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit, by country, region, local authority and constituency, are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year. These are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many working hours were spent administering the issue of annual review forms to tax credit recipients in 2007-08; [225046]

(2) what the cost of *(a)* sending and *(b)* processing the return of annual tax credit review forms was in 2007-08. [225047]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not keep separate information pertaining to the working hours spent administering the issuance of annual review forms.

In 2007-08 HMRC sent out around 9 million annual renewal packs. For the cost of sending annual renewal packs I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1954W to the hon. Member for South-West Hertfordshire (Mr. Gauke). The cost of processing annual tax credits renewals in 2007-08 was around £10.45 million.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 14 October 2008

SCOTLAND

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226509]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office incurred no expenditure on advertising in 2007-08.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226429]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 530W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

WALES

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226505]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My office paid 90 per cent. of all invoices received within 30 days, and of the small amount of invoices received from small businesses, 92 per cent. were paid within 30 days of receipt in 2007-08. The Wales Office does not have any agencies.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of written Questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current Session of Parliament to date. [226888]

Mr. Paul Murphy: This Session my Department has answered 24 out of 27 named day questions on the due date, a proportion of 89 per cent.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from his Department in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2003-04 and *(e)* 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227041]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has spent the following amounts on taxis:

	£
2002-03	1,266
2003-04	1,154
2004-05	625
2005-06	2,321
2006-07	2,194

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1052W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, (1) what the details were of each confirmed report of theft; [224126]

(2) how many cases of theft are being investigated; and on what date each investigation began. [224127]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Questions on 29 September 2008, (Official Report, column 2432W), about the theft of military supplies during transit to Afghanistan.

Below is a list of those reports which have been confirmed as theft. I have omitted some of those cases referred to in my original answer to you on 22 July 2008, (Official Report, column 1052W) regarding reported thefts, as subsequent investigations proved that some losses were due to other causes, such as accounting errors or having been destroyed by enemy forces while in transit. The information given in the table is sourced from the records held by the Royal Military Police, who investigate all reports received. At the time of writing there are no cases of reported theft of goods in transit still being investigated.

Date reported	*Actual incident*	*Background*	*Remarks*
11 October 2007	Theft in Transit	Tools removed from ISO* while in transit on Contractor convoy between Lashkar Gah and Camp Bastion	*ISO standard shipping container
16 October 2007	Theft in Transit	Personal items removed from ISO while in transit between UK and Camp Bastion.	—
28 October 2007	Theft in Transit	Specialist cable removed from ISO while in transit between UK and Camp Bastion.	—

Date reported	Actual incident	Background	Remarks
1 December 2007	Theft in Transit	Military equipment and personal items removed from ISO while in transit between Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion.	—
3 December 2007	Theft in Transit	Hesco Bastion removed from ISO while in transit between Kandahar Airfield and Lashkar Gah.	—
7 December 2007	Theft in Transit	Runway incursion lights removed from ISO while in transit between UK and Camp Bastion.	—
31 December 2007	Theft in Transit	Military equipment removed from ISO while in transit between Kandahar Airfield and Kabul.	—
12 January 2008	Theft in Transit	Hesco Bastion removed from ISO while in transit on Contractor convoy between Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion.	—
15 January 2008	Theft in Transit	Electrical items and plant equipment removed from ISO while in transit on Contractor convoy between Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion.	—
18 January 2008	Theft of ISO	Specialist stores removed from ISO while in transit on Contractor convoy between Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion.	Inquiries ascertained that ISO container did not reach intended destination
25 January 2008	Theft in Transit	Specialist stores removed from ISO while in transit between UK and Kandahar Airfield.	Inquiries ascertained that the ISO container arrived in theatre via Iran.
21 March 2008	Destroyed by EF/Theft in Transit	Specialist stores destroyed/removed from ISO while in transit between Germany and Camp Bastion.	Inquiries ascertained that 1 x ISO was destroyed by enemy forces/1 x ISO failed to arrive and 1 x ISO arrived at Camp Bastion.
2 April 2008	Theft of ISO	Accommodation stores removed from ISO while in transit on Contractor convoy between Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion.	Inquiries ascertained that ISO container did not reach intended destination.
12 May 2008	Theft in Transit	Military equipment removed from ISO while in transit between UK and Camp Bastion.	—
29 May 2008	Theft in Transit	2 x flat screen TVs removed while in transit between Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion.	—
23 June 2008	Theft from ISO	Specialist stores removed from ISO while in transit between Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion.	No evidence to indicate items loaded into ISO at Kandahar Airfield

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many enemy combatants were taken prisoner in Afghanistan by UK forces in each month of operations in the last two years. [225730]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence is currently undertaking a review of its detention records and I will write to the hon. Member when the review has been completed.

Armed Forces: Food

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department's ration packs cost on average. [226766]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The average cost of the components required to make one Operational Ration Pack (ORP) are as follows:

	£
24 Hr General Purpose ORP	8.75
24 Hr Sikh/Hindu ORP	8.77
24 Hr Halal ORP	9.34
24 Hr Vegetarian ORP	8.89

China: Military Alliances

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Memoranda of Understanding on military-co-operation signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in January 2008. [225408]

Mr. Hutton: Although a number of Memoranda of Understanding and bilateral agreements were signed during my right hon. Friend's very successful visit to China in January 2008, none related to military co-operation.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [220189]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 651-57W.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for future orders of Tranche 3 Typhoon fighters; and if he will make a statement. [227033]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Negotiations with partner nations and industry on Tranche 3 are continuing; decisions will be taken once these negotiations are complete.

Iran: Weapons

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many deaths of UK armed forces personnel in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan are considered to have resulted from the use of technology, explosives, ordnance or other weapons whose provenance is believed to be Iranian; and if he will make a statement. [225085]

Mr. Hutton: It is not possible to identify the origin of all technology, explosives, ordnance or weapons employed against British Forces operating in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some evidence suggests that a proportion of the equipment and armaments used in attacks originate from within the borders of Iran but the precise number is not available.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in transferring Basra airbase to Iraqi civilian authority; and if he will make a statement. [222018]

Mr. Hutton: As the Prime Minister set out in his statement on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 662, finalising the preparations for transfer of Basra International Airport (BIA) to Iraqi control is one of the key remaining tasks for UK forces in southern Iraq.

With some support from the Royal Air Force, the Iraqi civilian authorities are already able to operate BIA as a civil airport during daylight hours. We continue to assess that—subject to security conditions on the ground—the Iraqi authorities will be able to take over development of the airport at the turn of the year.

Porton Down

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when and for what purpose South Africa's Surgeon-General, Neil Knobel, visited Porton Down; and if he will make a statement. [225084]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I believe that your question relates to a claim made by Dr. Wouter Basson, during the Truth and Reconciliation Council hearings in August 2001, that Neil Knobel visited Porton Down. Officials at DSTL Porton Down have reviewed their records and have found no evidence to support the claim that this individual visited the establishment.

Trident Missiles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2440W, on Trident missiles, how many Trident warheads are either operationally available or undergoing maintenance. [225908]

Mr. Hutton: The UK has fewer than 160 operationally available Trident warheads. I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to question 220189, on staff, tabled on 15 July. [226916]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I replied to the hon. Member today.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crime Prevention

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the terms of reference of the review of community safety partnerships are. [224597]

Paul Goggins: An NIO-led review group is considering the optimum local arrangements for the delivery of the functions currently undertaken by Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and District Policing Partnerships (DPPs). The review will take account of the implementation of the Northern Ireland Executive's Review of Public Administration, and in particular the introduction of community planning. The main focus of this work is to establish how best to deliver effective local services and accountability, consistent with developments in community planning.

The review group will shortly bring forward recommendations on the way forward. I will then consult with key stakeholders before initiating a wider public consultation.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many and what proportion of staff in his Department are disabled; and what the average salary in his Department is of *(a)* full-time disabled staff, *(b)* full-time non-disabled staff, *(c)* part-time disabled staff and *(d)* part-time non-disabled staff; [220174]

(2) when he will reply to Question 220174, on staff, tabled on 15 July. [226923]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 8 October, *Official Report*, column 652W.

The statistics in respect of the Northern Ireland Office, as referred to in that response, relate only to its Home Civil Service employees. There are also a number of Northern Ireland Civil Servants working in the Department. When Northern Ireland Civil Servants are

included in the total, there are 54 staff (4.1 per cent.) in the NIO core and 36 staff (4.7 per cent.) in its executive agencies who have advised the Department that they have a disability.

Nuclear Power

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions he has had with the Minister for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in the Northern Ireland Executive on the implications for electricity consumers in Northern Ireland of the Government's plans for nuclear generation in Great Britain in the last 12 months; and what correspondence has been undertaken between his officials and those in the Northern Ireland Executive on the matter of the same timescale. [224763]

Mr. Woodward: I have had no such meetings or discussions in the last 12 months, but I know that officials in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform maintain close links with their counterparts in the Northern Ireland Department of Enterprise, Trade and Industry.

Vetting: Standards

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of the applications made to Access NI for criminal record checks in each of the last three months took more than four weeks to complete. [225356]

Paul Goggins: During the period in question, AccessNI maintained a performance target to complete 90 per cent. of basic disclosure applications within two weeks and 90 per cent. of standard disclosure applications within three weeks. Unfortunately, we have failed to meet our target of 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within four weeks.

I will write to the hon. Gentleman to explain the steps taken to address this issue.

Water Charges

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Shropshire, of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 441W, on water charges, what estimate he has made of the effect on funding to be provided from central Government to the Northern Ireland Executive as a result of not implementing a policy of revised water charges in Northern Ireland. [225545]

Mr. Woodward: Policy on water charging is a devolved matter for the Northern Ireland Executive. Any associated costs would be met from within the Northern Ireland block grant, which was set out in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Better Government for Older People

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of the Better Government for Older People programme; and if he will make a statement. [225530]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* On 22 May 2008 the Minister for Pensions Reform (Mike O'Brien) announced a review by John Elbourne to examine how Government can best engage with older people. The review is looking at how Government support mechanisms to engage with older people, including Better Government for Older People.

Council Tax Benefits: Scotland

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has commissioned on the effects of a local income tax on the administration of the council tax benefits system in Scotland. [225411]

Kitty Ussher: None to date.

Elderly

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the relationships are between his Department, the Better Government for Older People programme, the Older People's Advisory Group and the Centre for Policy on Ageing. [225531]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Work and Pensions is the main funder of Better Government for Older People (BGOP). BGOP supports a network of volunteers, the Older People's Advisory Group. The Centre for Policy on Ageing hosts BGOP, employing staff and providing accommodation.

Occupational Pensions: Public Sector

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new public sector pensions have been opened in each of the last 10 years. [226177]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

Membership data on individual public sector pension schemes are available in their published resource accounts.

Social Security Benefits

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate the Government has made of monetary value of unclaimed benefits in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by benefit and allowance type. [225280]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of the value of unclaimed income-related benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07". A copy of this report, along with past reports, has been placed in the Library.

Estimates are not available for other benefits and allowances.

Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many written warnings have been issued to benefit claimants about the consequences

of failure to engage in a rehabilitation programme in respect of antisocial or criminal behaviour under the provisions of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 as amended by the Welfare Reform Act 2007; in how many cases benefit sanctions have been applied; what progress has been made in the pilot areas; how many warnings and sanctions have been issued in each pilot area; and if he will make a statement. [225574]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* There have been no written warnings issued or sanctions applied in the pilot areas for the sanction of housing benefit related to antisocial behaviour.

The eight local authorities all have the necessary processes in place to offer suitable rehabilitation in cases where it would be appropriate. Some have introduced details about the sanction into their literature and warning letters to tenants.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equal Pay: Prosecutions

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many prosecutions of private sector employers took place under the Equal Pay Act 1970 for the underpayment of female workers between 2000 and 2007. [216492]

Maria Eagle: The Equal Pay Act 1970 does not contain any criminal offences, so there can be no prosecutions under it. Anyone who considers that they have been paid less than a person of the opposite gender for doing like work, work rated the same, or work of equal value can make a civil claim under the Equal Pay Act 1970 before an employment tribunal.

The number of equal pay claims made to employment tribunals is published by the Employment Tribunal Service (ETS), but information on whether the claim was brought against a public or private sector is not recorded.

The following table records the number of claims made in each period which included a claim for equal pay.

	Equal pay claims
2000-01	4,712
2001-02	8,762
2002-03	5,053
2003-04	4,412
2004-05	8,229
2005-06	17,268
2006-07	44,013

Data in this table are taken from the ETS Annual Reports for the years 2003-04 and 2005-06, and the Annual Statistics 2006-07, all of which are published on the ETS website:

http://www.employmenttribunals.gov.uk/publications/publications.htm

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff in the Government Equalities Office *(a)* are classified as Government communicators and *(b)* have access to the Government Communication Network. [215116]

Maria Eagle: There are five communications specialists in the Government Equalities Office. All civil servants have the option of accessing the Government Communication Network and those who mainly work in a communications role have exclusive access to the resources it provides.

Women: Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the effects of gang culture on levels of violence against women. [223002]

Maria Eagle: To date no assessment has been made by my Department of the effects of gang culture on levels of violence against women.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Legislation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* the publicity for and *(b)* the solicitation of responses to the Government's Draft Legislative Programme for 2008-09; [226096]

(2) how many responses to the Government's Draft Legislative Programme for 2008-09 were received by *(a)* e-mail, *(b)* post and *(c)* another method; and if she will make a statement. [226098]

Chris Bryant: £32,035 was spent on publishing the Government's Draft Legislative Programme for 2008-09. The cost of the consultation exercise on the Government's Draft Legislative Programme for 2008-09 was £30,922.38.

The Government's Draft Legislative Programme for 2008-09 received the views of around 1,900 people and organisations. These comprised 566 responses to the Leader of the House of Commons' website, at least 1,200 people and organisations who participated in the 62 regional events and 115 individuals and organisations who responded by post.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was allocated to adult learning support at higher education colleges in Leeds by the Learning and Skills Council in 2007-08. [226389]

Mr. Simon: The total Additional Learning Support (ALS) allocated to further education colleges in Leeds by the LSC in the year 2007-08 was £5,005,573. The breakdown of this allocation to individual colleges is set out as follows, and includes ALS for both 16 to 18-year-olds and adults (those aged 19 or over):

College name	*2007/08 ALS allocation (£)*
Joseph Priestley College	579,887
Leeds College of Art and Design	177,000
Leeds College of Building	188,728
Leeds College of Music	35,000

College name	2007/08 ALS allocation (£)
Leeds College of Technology	554,295
Leeds Thomas Danby	1,015,147
Northern School of Contemporary Dance	18,000
Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College	455,000
Park Lane College	1,937,434
Swarthmore Education Centre	45,082
Total ALS funding for FE colleges in Leeds	5,005,573

Apprentices

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government have taken to increase the numbers of applications for apprenticeships. [225336]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* "World-class Apprenticeships" confirmed our commitment to making apprenticeships a top-quality option for both young people and adults and set out steps to increase the numbers of people undertaking adult apprenticeships. In the summer we published a Draft Apprenticeships Bill to underpin and help sustain the improvements in the quality of the programme. Through this proposed legislation we aim to ensure that apprenticeships are a badge of quality skills for young people, for adults and for employers. The legislation will also drive forward the provision of sufficient apprenticeship places to meet the entitlement for our young people to have an offer of an apprenticeship place by 2013. Last year we abolished the upper age limit for apprenticeships and we are increasing Apprenticeships funding to over £1 billion between 2007-08 and 2010-11. Expanding apprenticeships will play a key role in improving the nation's skills base and we plan to deliver over 250,000 apprenticeship starts and 190,000 successful completions by 2020.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government have taken to reduce the burden of administration within the apprenticeship scheme. [225337]

Mr. Simon: On 7 August this year my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills announced Government proposals to cut red tape concerning Apprenticeships in response to employers' concerns. We will remove unnecessary bureaucracy such as demands to store paperwork for up to six years; multiple inspection visits; and minimise reporting requirements at the earliest possible opportunity. In line with the successful actions of some of Britain's leading employers, we will introduce improvements including more efficient use of electronic audit and storage, simpler and faster registration and certification processes, and more streamlined payment and reporting systems. These practical measures will enable more employers to meet their present and future skills needs, unimpeded by time-consuming and costly administration.

We are also working with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, who recently surveyed SMEs to establish how the new National Apprenticeship Service can better meet the needs of employers. The survey focused on, although was not limited to, reducing the administrative burden on business. Together we will consider how best to incorporate the recommendations coming out of the survey.

Chelmsford College

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will provide funding for adult learning support at Chelmsford college for 2008-09 to make up for the shortfall contingent on the changes made to the funding formula. [225340]

Mr. Simon: The level of additional learning support (ALS) based on the new funding methodology was finalised through the negotiation and allocation process between the Learning and Skills Council and Chelmsford college as part of wider discussions on overall funding allocations for the college. This resulted in the final funding allocation being agreed for 2008/09. ALS is part of the overall funding allocation for Chelmsford college. The overall funding allocation for the college (including ALS) is £9.7 million in 2008/09 (an increase of 3.7 per cent. compared to 2007/08).

Changes to the way ALS was calculated for 2008/09 were made following consultation across the full range of FE colleges and providers. These changes were introduced to ensure that the funding was better focused on need rather than purely on an historical basis.

We recognise that with any change to funding approach there is a period of transition and to allow for this and to minimise the impact on colleges' budgets only 60 per cent. of ALS has been distributed using the formula approach in 2008/09. The remaining 40 per cent. has been allocated on the basis of the historical proportion of the budget.

European High Power Laser Energy Research Facility

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which UK companies are involved in the European High Power Laser Energy Research facility; and what financial and other assistance his Department is providing to those companies. [226146]

Mr. Simon: The first phase of the High Power Laser Energy Research facility project (HiPER) was launched in London on 6 October 2008. This event marked the formal start of a three-year preparatory phase that is jointly funded by the European Commission, the UK (through the Science and Technology Facilities Council), and various European partners. A number of UK companies attended the event.

The purpose of the preparatory phase is to establish the technical, legal, financial, industrial and strategic development path for this large scale scientific facility. During this phase the project will develop relationships with potential industrial suppliers, particularly in lasers and optics, over the next three years. There is no substantial procurement in this first phase.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what fees were charged by colleges for A-level courses to students in

each of the last three years, broken down by college; and what fees are proposed for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 in each case. [225454]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) use a national funding system in which national rates determine the amount of public funding payable for courses funded through the 16-18, adult learner and employer responsive funding models. The actual funding a college or provider receives for a particular course is based on the number of hours required to complete the course.

Learners aged 16-18 at the start of their programme will be entitled to full fee remission and therefore will not be charged fees. Adult learners (aged 19 or over) in receipt of income-related benefits will be eligible for full fee remission. Those who are not eligible for fee remission will be expected to contribute towards the cost of the course in line with the national fee assumption. For the 2008/09 academic year the national fee assumption is 42.5 per cent. of the national funding rate, increasing to 47.5 per cent. in 2009/10.

While a college or provider receives the national fee assumption affecting the level of public funding, it is for colleges and providers to determine the actual fee charged. It is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of the fees charged to adult learners doing A-levels either at national level or by college.

Training: Interpreters

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will recommend that the Learning and Skills Council establish a source of ring-fenced funding for the training of public service interpreters; and if he will make a statement. [224783]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the funding of post-16 further education (FE) and training delivered through FE colleges and providers in England.

Government funding through the LSC is focused on supporting adults and young people to gain the skills they need for sustainable employment and progression in learning. Investment is prioritised on basic literacy and numeracy, full level 2 and full level 3 qualifications as well as a range of first steps provision offering opportunities for progression below level 2. The LSC also funds some provision at level 4 and above, for example the Diploma in Public Service Interpreters. For courses at this level, where the learner/employer sees the greatest private returns, they are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of the course.

In line with our response to the Leitch Review of Skills we are committed to increasing funding through demand-led routes to ensure that funding is responsive to learner and employer needs. We would therefore not seek to ring-fence funding for a specific course as this would run counter to this aim.

Training: Trade Unions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what level of funding he has made available for trade union training in each of the last three years. [225855]

Mr. Simon: Trade unions have a key role to play in promoting the development of learning and skills in the workplace. To help them do this more effectively we introduced the union learning fund in 1998. This source of funding is helping trade unions use their influence with employers, employees and training providers to encourage greater take-up of learning at work and boost their own capacity as learning organisations. The level of funding in each of the last three financial years has been as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	15.4
2006-07	16.9
2007-08	18.4

With the help of the union learning fund, trade unions and their union learning representatives have been able to develop successful partnerships with employers to raise skill levels in the workplace. There are now over 20,500 trained union learning reps who have helped over 600,000 workers back into learning since the fund was introduced. Over 200,000 were helped last year, many from those hard to reach groups, who employers and training providers find it so difficult to engage with, including over 34,000 workers with poor basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Union learning representatives and other trade union representatives and officers can also access LSC funded training, delivered through a network of approved colleges, to help them carry out their duties more effectively. There is no separate budget allocated for this type of training.

Vocational Qualification Day

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what support his Department gave to Vocational Qualification Day 2008; and if he will make a statement. [225936]

Mr. Simon: The Department welcomed VQ Day as the first national day to celebrate the achievement of those who gain vocational qualifications, and to recognise the contribution made by all those working in colleges and other training organisations who teach and support learners during their courses. Minister of State Bill Rammell attended the launch of VQ Day at the House of Commons, and Secretary of State John Denham attended the national celebration event on VQ Day itself at the Royal Opera House, where he was pleased to give a short speech and meet learners.

JUSTICE

Alternatives to Prison: Mentally Ill

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what alternatives to a custodial sentence upon conviction there are for those offenders who have been diagnosed with severe mental health problems. [225913]

Mr. Hanson: Sentencing is a matter for the courts in the light of the offence, any medical evidence, the history of offending and the implications of a particular disposal for the offender's future management.

People who, on conviction, meet criteria for detention under section of the Mental Health Act 1983 (MHA) may be given a hospital order under section 37 of the Act, or hospital and limitation directions under section 45A, detaining them in hospital for treatment in the setting that most appropriately balances treatment needs, security and public protection. It is also possible for courts to order offenders who meet certain criteria to be made subject to guardianship under the MHA.

People with mental ill health not meeting these criteria who are not given a custodial sentence may access general NHS community mental health services as other unrestricted patients do.

The Government have asked Lord Bradley to consider the diversion of offenders with mental health problems and learning disabilities away from prison and we look forward to considering his report which we expect will be available at the end of the year.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current Session of Parliament to date. [226893]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice answered 621 named day written questions on the day specified out of a total of 837 questions from 6 November 2007 up to and including 13 October 2008. This represents 74.19 per cent. We also answered 1,955 ordinary written questions out of 2,548 during the same period. This represents 76.73 per cent.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions there have been for illegal use of a mobile telephone whilst driving in each year since it became an offence, broken down by police force area. [225439]

Maria Eagle: Available information on prosecutions and convictions in the period 1 December 2003 to end 2006 (latest available) taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by my Department, are provided in the following table. 2007 data should be available later this year.

The majority of "use of hand held mobile phone while driving" offences are dealt with under the fixed penalty notices scheme. The table does not include fixed penalty notices but does include cases where fixed penalty notices were issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

Proceedings and findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1, 2] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-06

Number of offences

	2003		2004		2005		2006	
Police force area	*Total court proceedings*[3]	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total court proceedings*[3]	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total court proceedings*[3]	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total court proceedings*[3]	*Total findings of guilt*
Avon and Somerset	0	0	19	19	47	39	54	48
Bedfordshire	1	1	5	5	16	13	76	62
Cambridgeshire	0	0	7	6	19	19	52	46
Cheshire	0	0	2	1	15	14	36	30
Cleveland	0	0	4	3	7	7	20	16
Cumbria	0	0	24	24	41	35	57	53
Derbyshire	0	0	17	16	52	49	35	30
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	19	17	27	25	52	42
Dorset	0	0	0	0	3	3	4	3
Durham	0	0	1	1	2	2	16	15
Essex	0	0	28	25	64	53	71	65
Gloucestershire	0	0	1	1	4	4	10	7
Greater Manchester	0	0	73	65	154	136	183	158
Hampshire	0	0	18	15	40	34	69	63
Hertfordshire	0	0	6	6	70	64	65	52
Humberside	0	0	4	4	25	22	45	39
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	17	16	48	46	62	48
Leicestershire	0	0	12	9	28	26	26	24
Lincolnshire	0	0	9	5	13	12	30	24
London, City of	0	0	7	5	14	12	24	20
Merseyside	0	0	22	20	27	23	46	41
Metropolitan Police	0	0	203	124	658	545	683	588
Norfolk	0	0	20	15	21	17	31	21
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	32	29	22	20	98	89
North Yorkshire	0	0	18	18	35	30	34	33
Nottinghamshire	0	0	8	7	26	24	17	15
South Yorkshire	0	0	12	12	25	21	43	32
Staffordshire	0	0	11	10	21	21	19	16
Suffolk	0	0	7	4	22	17	21	16

Proceedings and findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1] [2] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-06

Number of offences

	2003		2004		2005		2006	
Police force area	*Total court proceedings[2]*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total court proceedings[2]*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total court proceedings[2]*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total court proceedings[2]*	*Total findings of guilt*
Surrey	0	0	9	7	91	82	92	88
Sussex	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	24	21	126	112	211	175
Warwickshire	0	0	7	7	17	13	20	16
West Mercia	0	0	17	15	59	50	88	74
West Midlands	0	0	61	52	109	88	121	94
West Yorkshire	0	0	11	9	47	38	52	37
Wiltshire	0	0	21	19	29	22	38	32
Dyfed Powys	0	0	13	13	16	13	15	14
Gwent	0	0	0	0	4	3	6	4
North Wales	0	0	3	3	17	13	30	26
South Wales	0	0	16	12	23	20	28	21
England and Wales	1	1	789	641	2,090	1,789	2,682	2,277

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110(1), 110(2) and 110 (3). Introduced 1 December 2003.
[2] Includes cases where a fixed penalty notice was originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to review the law relating to the responsibility of a supplier of a toxic substance to a person when that person voluntarily takes the substance themselves with consequent harm in the light of the House of Lords judgement R *v.* Kennedy. [226772]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice have no plans to review the law in this area. If a person of sound mind freely and voluntarily administers a drug to himself, it would not be appropriate for the law to hold the supplier of the drug responsible for that decision. In the case of R *v.* Kennedy (No 2) ["2007] UKHL 38 the defendant was found guilty of supplying a controlled drug. That is a serious offence reflecting the harm that controlled drugs can do. The maximum penalty is life imprisonment, or a fine, or both. The defendant was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

In this particular case, the person supplied subsequently died as a result of taking the drug. But the conviction for manslaughter was not upheld on appeal, because administering the drug was the decision of the deceased and the appellant could not be said to have committed a criminal act which had been a significant cause of the deceased's death.

Elections: Greater London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1037W, on elections: Greater London, if he will assess the extent to which voters understood the conceptual differences between the second preference in the Supplementary Vote Election System for Mayor of London and the second vote in Additional Member System for the London Assembly, when casting their votes. [225564]

Mr. Wills: The Government have no plans to undertake an assessment of this issue. Under the terms of section 6 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 the Electoral Commission may submit reports on local government elections, including elections for the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. In July 2008, the Electoral Commission published its report on the administration of the Greater London Authority elections on 1 May 2008. The report covers levels of rejected ballot papers, and public understanding of ballot papers, though does not directly assess the extent to which voters understood the differences between the voting systems in use for the Mayoral and London Assembly elections.

Evidence: CCTV

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were opened and then not proceeded with in court because of a failure to comply with the Information Commissioner's code of practice for CCTV in each of the last seven years. [225821]

Mr. Wills: Procedural details about court cases in England and Wales are held in each individual court and are not collated centrally. The information requested can only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Family Courts

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to the consultation, Confidence and Confidentiality: Openness in family courts. [226770]

Bridget Prentice: This is an important and complex area of policy about which people have strong views, and one that we are examining with care and consideration. That is why we have consulted twice on how we could improve transparency in family courts.

While it is important that the family courts are open to scrutiny and have the confidence of the public; it is equally as important that the welfare of children is protected, and that includes their right to privacy and anonymity.

The response paper to the last consultation will be published soon and details of it will be announced to Parliament.

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what facilities are available in prisons to prisoners diagnosed with mental health problems. [225915]

Mr. Hanson: All prisoners are assessed at the point of reception into prison and those at risk of having a mental health problem, or vulnerable to suicide, are referred for a mental health assessment to the mental health in-reach team. Nearly £20 million a year is being invested recurrently in mental health in-reach. There are 102 mental health in-reach teams with all prisons having access to them: a total of 360 extra staff altogether.

There are new systems to monitor and support those at risk of harming themselves, and prison officers are being trained in mental health awareness. £600,000 has been invested over three years to 2009 to train frontline prison staff. Investment (£308 million in 2006-07 and £336 million in 2007-08) is also being made in four close supervision centres (CSC) at Whitemoor, Wakefield, Woodhill and Long Lartin prisons to deliver mental health care to those prisoners whose offending behaviour and history mean that containment in secure isolated accommodation is the only option.

Furthermore, in relation to the small number of people with a severe personality disorder who are dangerous, the Department of Health and Ministry of Justice are investing in special secure services. The programme has a capacity of over 300 places in two high security prisons (Frankland and Whitemoor), a female prison (Low Newton in Durham) and two high security hospitals (Broadmoor and Rampton). They provide essential clinical services for dangerous offenders whose offending is linked to severe personality disorder.

The Government have asked Lord Bradley to consider the diversion of offenders with mental health problems and learning disabilities away from prison and we look forward to considering his report which we expect will be available at the end of the year.

Prisoners: Pay

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what maximum amount a prisoner is able to earn per week, including any payments for education, work, good behaviour or any other duties. [226309]

Mr. Hanson: Prison Service Order 4460 (Prisoners' Pay), a copy of which has been placed in the House Library, sets out minimum rates of prisoner pay for work (enabling them to obtain life skills) and education and other duties or activities. The order requires governors and directors of contracted prisons to devise local pay schemes that reflect regime priorities of their establishment.

The information requested is not centrally available and could be collated only by manual checking with over 140 individual establishments, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many serving prisoners received additional terms of imprisonment for assaulting prison staff in each of the last three years; [224950]

(2) how many serving prisoners were convicted of assaulting prison staff in each of the last three years; [224951]

(3) how many prison staff members were assaulted by prisoners while on duty in each of the last three years. [224952]

Mr. Straw: Information about action taken by the police, and the outcome of criminal proceedings, is not held by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

NOMS and the Prison Officers Association are jointly committed to 'zero tolerance' on assaults on staff. I have written to the Attorney-General and the Home Secretary, both of whom are committed to pursing a robust and consistent approach to the involvement of the police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in prosecuting such assaults. Alongside working with the CPS and the police, enhanced guidance is also currently being developed by police advisers section in NOMS headquarters on a much wider agenda of crime reporting in prisons. This guidance will address the subject of the reporting and investigation of allegations of assault on prison staff and aims to provide national consistency in classifying and responding to crime committed in prisons. The guidance will be an important step in making sure that the most serious incidents are referred to the police.

The following table shows incidents of prisoner on staff assaults in each of the last three years for which figures are available. The number of prisoner on staff assaults has remained stable, despite a rise in the prison population.

The information is subject to important qualifications. The NOMS incident reporting system processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide a good indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute.

Assault data are complex and the numbers need to be interpreted with caution. Information recorded as assault incidents may involve one or more victim.

The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents. The numbers refer to all incidents recorded as assaults; these may also include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact events and allegations.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Prisoner on staff assaults	3,171	3,148	2,916
Mid Year Prison Population	76,190	77,982	80,205

Prisons: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has issued in writing to prison governors on *(a)* misuse of buprenorphine, *(b)* systems of administering methadone and *(c)* the risks associated with naltrexone in the last three years. [225480]

Mr. Hanson: Advice on reducing the supply of drugs—including illicit buprenorphine—into prisons has been issued to all prisons in England and Wales.

On 13 March 2008 governors were informed that as of 1 April 2008 buprenorphine would be included in the panel of drugs tested for under the Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT) programme.

In 2008 the Department of Health issued governors (in public prisons) and directors (in contracted prisons) with copies of the following documents:

Department of Health (2006) Clinical management of drug dependence in the adult prison setting

Department of Health (2007) Drug misuse and drug dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management

Both of these documents feature detailed guidance on the safe and effective clinical use of methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone.

Sentencing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to ensure consistency in the length of sentences handed down by judges for similar offences. [226529]

Maria Eagle: In 2003 the Government created the Sentencing Guidelines Council for England and Wales which must have regard to promoting consistency in sentencing when it frames its guidelines. This complements the responsibility of the Court of Appeal Criminal Division to promote a consistent approach to sentencing with the assistance of the Judicial Studies Board.

To facilitate a more informed approach to consistency, in December 2007 the Government published a report on geographic variations in custodial sentencing in England and Wales for 2003 to 2006, and possible causes.

In December 2008 the Government and the Lord Chief Justice set up a working group chaired by Lord Justice Gage into sentencing guidelines, which looked, amongst other things, into ways to improve consistency, and made recommendations. The Government are currently considering those proposals.

The Northern Ireland Court of Appeal delivers guideline judgments on sentencing in Northern Ireland. These sentencing guideline cases encourage consistency in sentencing throughout the courts of Northern Ireland and support sentencers in their decision making. In addition, the Judicial Studies Board of Northern Ireland provides training to the judiciary on a range of issues, including sentencing.

South East

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on services, broken down by type in *(a)* Dartford Borough, *(b)* Kent Thameside, *(c)* the Thames Gateway, *(d)* Kent County Council area and *(e)* the South East region in each of the last five years. [222446]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows:

HM Courts Service

	South East (£000)
2005-06	133,574
2006-07	144,179
2007-08	146,760

Spend for years prior to 2005-06 could be provided only at disproportionate cost as HM Courts Service was formed in April 2005.

Spend for other requested areas could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tribunals Service

	Greater London and the South East[1] (£000)
2006-07	33,593
2007-08	36,720

[1] Administrative area and not necessarily geographic.

Spend for years prior to 2006-07 could be provided only at disproportionate cost as Tribunals Service was formed in April 2006.

Spend for the South East region only and other requested areas could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HM Prison Service

£000

	Thames Gateway	*Rest of Kent*	*Rest of South East*
2003-04	52,742	32,259	167,380
2004-05	89,648	32,216	173,642
2005-06	97,662	33,323	179,801
2006-07	106,197	30,024	179,577
2007-08	108,771	32,621	190,735

There are no prison establishments in Dartford borough or Kent Thameside.

National Probation Service

£000

	Kent	*South East region*
2003-04	15,727	76,367
2004-05	16,401	77,930
2005-06	18,734	88,105
2006-07	19,795	91,600
2007-08	20,809	97,454

Spend for other requested areas could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Office of the Public Guardian

An answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as OPG does not serve defined administrative areas.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will reply to Question 220173, on staff, tabled on 15 July. [226922]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice answered this question on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 872W. I am very sorry for the delay.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of sentence was for young offenders convicted for offences involving *(a)* violence against a person, *(b)* burglary, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* sexual offences and *(e)* illegal drugs where a custodial sentence was handed down in the financial year 2005-06. [226833]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Statistics are provided on a calendar year basis for 2006.

Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] for various offence groups by age group, all courts, England and Wales, 2006

	Average length of sentence (months)		
	Age group		
Offence description	*Juveniles 10-17 year olds*	*Young adults 18-20 year olds*	*10 - 20 year olds*
Violence against the person	12.8	16.3	15.2
Burglary	8.6	13.9	11.7
Robbery	16.9	31.5	24.4
Sexual offences	29.9	36.5	33.8
Drug offences	14.0	24.7	22.5

[1] Months. Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services

TRANSPORT

A1: Elkesley

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has established for the construction of the A1 flyover at Elkesley. [224820]

Paul Clark: Following the Preferred Route Announcement in July 2008 the next stage of the process is the publication of the draft statutory orders in spring 2009.

Further progression is dependent on the outcome of the statutory process and the possible need for a public inquiry. On this basis construction is unlikely to start before late 2010.

A38

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what decisions have been made on *(a)* the closure of and *(b)* improvements to road junctions on the A38 between Marsh Mills, Plymouth and South Brent following the recent review. [222417]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency continues to monitor the performance of the A38 between Marsh Mills, Plymouth and South Brent to improve its operation and safety. This includes discussion with key stakeholders including Plymouth city council. The closures and improvements detailed in this answer have evolved from this process.

Between (and including) Marsh Mills junction and South Brent junction, a distance of approximately 20 kilometres, there are seven eastbound and eight westbound locations where access to or egress from the A38 trunk road is possible. The current position at these locations is:

(a) The Highways Agency has recently consulted on the permanent closure of the A38 Voss Farm eastbound access slip road and is in the process of making an order to authorise its permanent closure. This access slip road has been temporarily closed since June 2007. Although the accident data do not support the closure of the Voss Farm westbound slip roads, their possible closure will be considered as part of improvements required to accommodate additional development growth for Deep Lane.

The current accident data for the other locations do not support further slip road closure.

(b) A recent accident study for Marsh Mills recommends improvement to the signing, lining and skid resistance of the road surface at this junction and this work is currently being designed.

At Deep Lane, the junction improvement work has been undertaken. This consists of the installation of traffic signals and realignment works to accommodate the construction of the Langage Power Station. The westbound access slip safety study will be completed this autumn. In addition, the major improvements to this junction to accommodate the Sherford and other additional development growth emerging from the Regional Spatial Strategy, continue to be pursued.

Safety improvements to the Lee Mill westbound egress slip road were implemented during spring 2008. Improvements consisted of narrowing of the westbound egress slip and realignment of the roundabout on the county road.

No improvements have been identified as necessary at any of the other locations on the A38 between Marsh Mills and South Brent.

Airports: Security

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidelines have been issued to airport authorities on the appointment of security personnel. [224645]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport places directed obligations on aerodrome managers, aircraft operators, regulated cargo agents, and in-flight catering companies regarding the vetting and training of aviation security personnel as part of the National Aviation Security Programme (NASP). Best practice guidance on the physical and other attributes of security personnel is also included in the NASP.

Crossrail: Construction

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what disruption to roads he expects to take place during the construction of Crossrail; and if he will make a statement. [225126]

Paul Clark: The likely construction impacts of Crossrail are described in the environmental statement (ES) for the project that accompanied the Crossrail Bill and was considered during the lengthy parliamentary scrutiny of the Bill. Construction of Crossrail will be subject to the environmental minimum requirements for the project (including a construction code and the many undertakings and assurances given by the Secretary of State during the Bill's passage) as well as the safeguards in the Act itself, to ensure that the impacts of the project do not exceed what has been assessed and described in the ES. Many of the detailed arrangements for how construction will affect roads and traffic will be subject to approval of the relevant local highways authority and consultation within traffic liaison groups which will be established along the whole route.

Cycling: Standards

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to ensure that all school children have access to cycling proficiency lessons before they attend secondary school. [224725]

Paul Clark: While the nature and level of cycle training provision is a matter for schools and local authorities, the Government have increased significantly the resources for cycling provision to £140 million over three years. Among other initiatives this funding will give an extra 500,000 children the opportunity to undertake national standard training by 2012, over and above the training already provided by schools and local authorities.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on schools providing cycling proficiency lessons for children; and if he will make a statement. [224732]

Paul Clark: The Government are keen to encourage children to travel to school in a sustainable way and therefore supports the provision of cycle training in schools. The nature and level of such training is a matter of choice for schools and local authorities. However, the Government have made funding available to give an extra 500,000 children the opportunity to undertake national standard training by 2012, over and above the training already provided by local authorities.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point provide cycling proficiency lessons. [224733]

Paul Clark: The Government do not hold data on the provision of cycle training by individual schools. We monitor delivery of training courses by local authorities and school sports partnerships who are awarded Government grants to fund national standard cycle training in schools. Local authorities monitor outputs from their own schemes.

Essex county council has been awarded £10,000 for 2008-09 to provide 250 national standard training places. School Sports Partnerships in Essex have been awarded £64,000 to provide a further 1,600 places, including 75 in Castle Point and Rochford.

These funding allocations represent part of the significant increase in overall allocations of £140 million over the years. Further and within Essex, Colchester and Southend have been awarded 'Cycle Demonstration Town' status.

In addition to this, Essex county council funds and delivers the Essex Cyclist Training scheme (ECTS). It is available to all primary schools for children aged 10 years and above. Last year 3,080 pupils were trained, of which 80 were in the Castle Point district. Although this training is not currently equivalent to the national standard, Essex stated in their 2008-09 Cycling England grant bid their aspiration to transfer training to national standard by 2015.

Departmental Telephone Services

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what agencies or units for which his Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers which charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225639]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is as follows, for the last three financial years and rounded:

	2005-06 (£000)	*2006-07 (£000)*	*2007-08 (£000)*	*Comments*
DfT (Central)	0	0	0	Had a 0845 line for a short period in 2007-08, generating no income
DVLA	2,424	2,894	3,382	DVLA operates as a Trading Fund and income from 0870 lines supports the cost of the call centre and services.
DSA	693.2	623.3	672.0	0870 numbers are being replaced with low rate 0300 ones from 31 October 2008.
VOSA	63.4	72.4	78.6	Replaced with a new low rate 0300 number from 1 September 2008.
VCA	0	0	0	Has one 0844 line, generating no income
HA	0	0	0	Calls to the 0845 HA Information Line are charged at a local rate.
MCA	0	0	0	Has one 0870 line which generates no income
GCDA	0	0	0	Has no premium rate lines

Inland Waterways: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of his Department's budget was spent on British waterways in the last period for which figures are available. [225612]

Jim Fitzpatrick: British Waterways is sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England and Wales and by the Scottish Executive in Scotland.

In February 2007, the Department for Transport (DfT) offered British Waterways a Freight Facilities Grant of £1.37 million towards the capital costs of constructing a lock and associated works at the Prescott Channel in east London. In that year, the Department's budget for Freight Facilities Grants was £7 million of which 19.6 per cent. was allocated to British Waterways.

Level Crossings: Accidents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many serious injuries have occurred on level crossings in the last five years. [225700]

Paul Clark: The information requested is contained in the following table:

Serious injuries on British level crossings, 2003-07

	Fatal injuries	Major injuries[1]	Over Three day injuries[2]	Hospital treatment[3]	Total
2003	16	1	1	24	42
2004	14	3	4	57	78
2005	16	1	2	18	37
2006	8	2	9	17	36
2007	12	1	3	10	26
Total	66	8	19	126	219

[1] This category only applies to railway employees.
[2] This category only applies to injuries to railway employees that required a three day or over absence from work.
[3] This category only applies to members of the public injured at a level crossing and taken directly to hospital for treatment.

The data are based on incidents reported to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95).

Injuries to trespassers, attempted suicides and confirmed suicides have been excluded from the table.

M25

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars broke down on the M25 in each of the last five years. [225620]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold data on the total number of cars broken down on the M25 in the last five years. This is because many individuals who break down make their own private recovery or repair arrangements using direct contact by mobile telephone and these are not recorded by the Highways Agency.

The Department for Transport records vehicles broken down on motorways that have been reported to the regional control centres operated by Highways Agency's Traffic Officer Service.

These data have only been collected from the introduction of the Traffic Officer Service which achieved full service on the M25 on 1 October 2006.

The numbers recorded for light vehicles that were broken down on the M25 are listed in the following table.

Incidents recorded by Traffic Officer Service

Time period	Number of hard shoulder and live lane breakdowns of cars and light goods vehicles (under 7.5 tonnes)
1 October 2006 to 31 December 2006	6,310
1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007	27,840
1 January 2008 to 30 September 2008	22,042
Total	56,192

M25: Repairs and Maintenance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average annual cost was of cleaning the M25 motorway in the latest period for which figures are available. [225615]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency has estimated the annual cost of cleaning the M25 motorway in the financial year 2007-08 as £1.272 million. Data are not collated or held in a format which provides a breakdown of costs for the cleaning of individual roads within the Highways Agency's Area 5 network. The figure for cleaning the M25 is therefore only an approximation based on the proportion of network to costs. The M25 forms just under half (49.92 per cent.) of the Area 5 network.

M6

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will take steps to approve a scheme for the re-location of junction 14 of the M6 to a position further north of Stafford; [225297]

(2) if he will take steps to approve a scheme for the early re-construction of junction 15 of the M6 to a modern motorway standard; [225301]

(3) when he expects to introduce the first active traffic management scheme on the M6; and at what location; [225303]

(4) what his policy is on the widening of the M6 between junctions 11 and 19. [225304]

Paul Clark: Following the Advanced Motorway Signalling and Traffic Management Feasibility Study published in March 2008 the Secretary of State announced a programme of work to examine in detail where dynamic use of the hard shoulder should be implemented more widely to ease congestion and improve reliability on the network.

The M6 from junctions 10a (Wolverhampton) to 19 (Knutsford) is one of the areas being examined for potential roll-out of hard shoulder running. This detailed feasibility work is due to be complete by the end of the year and includes examining what improvements to existing junctions may also be necessary, although it does not at this stage consider the relocation of junctions. Decisions on the nature, priority and timing of improvements to the M6 and the need for any further investigation works, such as looking at relocating junctions, will be made following the conclusions of this work.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timetable is for the construction of a direct link from the M54 to the M6 toll road. [225306]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency is currently assessing options for the provision of a new link from the M54 to the M6 (northbound) and the M6 toll. The way forward for this scheme will be reviewed once the results of the options assessment work are known, which is expected to be in early 2009.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to arrange the early re-surfacing of the M6 between junctions 13 and 14. [225307]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency has indicated that tests are currently under way between junctions 13 and 14 of the M6 to identify when the next major resurfacing scheme will be required, although this is unlikely to be within the next three years.

Following recent spending reviews, the Government decided that resurfacing schemes should not be brought forward ahead of normal maintenance needs. When resurfacing is carried out, general policy is to use materials with low noise properties wherever possible.

Manchester Piccadilly to Manchester Airport Railway Line

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains per week on the Manchester Piccadilly to Manchester Airport line did not make a scheduled stop at *(a)* intermediate stations and *(b)* Burnage station due to the service recovery protocol in the latest period for which figures are available. [225128]

Paul Clark: During rail industry period 6 (17 August 2008 to 13 September 2008), a total of five trains were recorded as not having called at intermediate stations between Manchester Airport and Manchester Piccadilly as a result of service recovery incidents. The Department for Transport does not hold centrally the number of trains failing to call at individual stations.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of resurfacing motorways has been in the last five years. [225611]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency does not separately record or report the cost of resurfacing motorways. However, the annual accounts for the HA over the past five years has reported the following in terms of expenditure on maintenance.

	£ million
2007-08	879
2006-07	850
2005-06	852
2004-05	732
2003-04	726

Expenditure figures have been adjusted to account for spend relating to roads trunked or detrunked in the financial year.

The expenditure figures provided are for maintenance on the strategic road network managed and maintained by the Highways Agency. This includes renewal of the road surface and repairs to structures, as well as routine maintenance such as gully clearing, white lining, cleaning and winter maintenance, but not those associated with our Private Finance Initiative contracts.

To disaggregate the cost of resurfacing motorways only would be a very lengthy exercise, and as such could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by her Department has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [222123]

Mr. Hoon: A response covering all Government Departments was provided by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W.

Railway Network

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to open new train lines in England. [225606]

Paul Clark: The Government's immediate priority is increasing capacity on the existing rail network and £10 billion will be invested from 2009 to 2014 on measures to bring this about.

In March 2008, the Secretary of State for Transport invited Network Rail to examine options for supporting further growth in the longer term, which might include new lines. Network Rail's new lines study is due to be completed in summer 2009.

Railways: Contracts

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which train operators have requested a renegotiation of their franchise agreement in the last 12 months. [227129]

Paul Clark: None. The Department for Transport has consistently stated that it will not renegotiate franchises.

Railways: Fares

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to repeat the 2003 Future Fares Policy Consultation to review the Strategic Rail Authority's fare structures. [225703]

Paul Clark: In our White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" published in July 2007 we confirmed the policy of capping most regulated fares to RPI plus 1 per cent. until 2014.

But we are never complacent about issues that affect rail passengers. The previous Secretary of State for Transport asked Passenger Focus to address how well the current system of fares and ticketing meets passenger expectations so that we can consider options for further improvements. That process is under way.

Railways: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the upgrade of Milton Keynes Central train station is due to be completed; and at what cost. [226473]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: The upgrade of Milton Keynes Central station, including the track and associated signalling, is due to be completed over the Christmas and new year period 2008.

The total cost is some £120 million.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many extra *(a)* Virgin and *(b)* London Midland trains will stop at Milton Keynes Central as a result of the platform upgrade. [226538]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: With the introduction of new timetables on the West Coast Main Line, there will be an additional hourly service, provided by Virgin Trains, between London and Chester, which will call at Milton Keynes Central.

London Midland will also provide a new hourly service between London and Crewe, via Northampton, also calling at Milton Keynes Central.

Southern is planning to extend its hourly West London Line service, presently terminating at Watford Junction, to Milton Keynes Central.

Currently these changes are proposed to be phased in between early December 2008 and late January 2009.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* potential and *(b)* actual capacity for commuters has been created at Milton Keynes Central train station by the recent works. [226539]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: An opportunity exists to increase commuter services between Milton Keynes Central and London as a result of the work now being completed on the West Coast Main Line. Up to two such trains an hour could operate on the fast lines, if additional 125 mile/hour trains are available and demand increases to justify such an investment.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what capacity for non-stopping trains will be created at Milton Keynes Central by the recent works; and how many trains per hour this represents. [226540]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: The new layout at Milton Keynes Central station, with an extra line and additional platform capacity, provides for the operation of up to four additional fast trains an hour.

Railways: Public Appointments

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to appoint a chairman for the Office of Rail Regulation. [226630]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: The process for appointing a new chairman of the Office of Rail Regulation is already under way. It is hoped that the new chairman could be in place by July 2009, with a transition period beginning in April 2009.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how often railway sleepers were replaced in the latest period for which figures are available. [225616]

Paul Clark: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Railways: Students

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money the Government provided for scholar discounts for train tickets for young people attending schools in Cambridge via First Capital Connect and WAGN in each of the last three years. [223942]

Paul Clark: The Government have not provided any funding to either First Capital Connect or WAGN in any of the last three years in relation to discounted scholar train tickets.

Road Traffic Control: Carbon Emissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the quantity of carbon dioxide produced each day by the use of traffic lights and electronic signs. [225617]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has not estimated the level of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the use of traffic lights or electronic signs.

Roads: Construction

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her latest estimate is of the construction cost per mile of a three-lane motorway with *(a)* a continuous hard shoulder, *(b)* emergency refuge areas every 500 metres, *(c)* emergency refuge areas every 800 metres, *(d)* emergency refuge areas every 1,000 metres and *(e)* neither hard shoulder nor emergency refuge areas. [222462]

Paul Clark: The estimated range of construction costs for one mile of three-lane motorway with a continuous hard shoulder is from £21.4 million to £35.0 million. This compares with a range of £19.3 million to £31.5 million for a three-lane motorway without hard shoulder. The estimated rates cover the construction costs of a new dual three-lane rural motorway including detail design costs and statutory undertakers' diversions, but excluding land costs, VAT and the Highways Agency's agent and administration costs.

The Highways Agency does not hold estimates for the costs of construction of a new motorway with emergency refuges at any distance, as they have never undertaken or considered a project of this type. The M42 Active Traffic Management Pilot cost £9.0 million per mile but this scheme added hard shoulder running and emergency refuge areas at around 500 metres to an existing three-lane motorway with hard shoulder. However, costs will vary on a scheme by scheme basis and so the M42 pilot might not represent the typical cost of adding hard shoulder running with emergency refuge areas at around 500 m.

Following the Advanced Motorway Signalling and Traffic Management Feasibility Study, further work is under way to examine in detail the scope for a wider roll-out of dynamic hard shoulder running. This will include analysis of the cost of adding hard shoulder running to existing motorways with emergency refuges at around 800 m.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy, when assessing the benefits of new railway rolling stock, to base such an assessment on the operational life of the stock rather than the length of franchise. [226688]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* When taking a decision to procure or require the procurement of new rolling stock, the Department for Transport's policy is to assess the life-time costs and benefits of that rolling stock. It is also open to the Department to take into account the life-time benefits of bidder proposals when appropriate in franchise competitions, for instance when considering the purchase of options.

Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what speed limit reviews his Department requires from local authorities before 2011; what guidance has been issued on how to conduct these reviews; and if he will make a statement. [226328]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department provides local traffic authorities with guidance to ensure local speed limits are appropriately and consistently set. The latest guidance was published on 8 August 2006 in DfT Circular 01/2006, "Setting Local Speed Limits", and requested traffic authorities review speed limits on all of their A and B roads, and implement any necessary changes by 2011.

The Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) developed a Speed Assessment Framework to assist traffic authorities with their decision making process with specific regard to rural single carriageway roads. The framework is available as a Traffic Advisory leaflet and as a downloadable spreadsheet from the TRL website.

Stansted Airport: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the additional greenhouse gas emissions that would result from an expansion of air traffic capacity at Stansted airport. [226938]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our current forecasts of UK aviation carbon dioxide emissions were reported in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", published in November 2007 and available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

According to these forecasts, using Stansted's existing runway to the new maximum permitted capacity would result in additional carbon dioxide emissions of around one million tonnes per annum by 2015. This would be equivalent to an increase of less than 1 per cent. in total UK transport emissions, or an increase of around 0.2 per cent. in total UK emissions.

These forecasts also show that the opening of a second runway at Stansted, which will be the subject of a separate planning inquiry in 2009, would cause the UK's annual carbon dioxide emissions to increase by an additional 2.3 million tonnes per annum, when averaged over the period 2015 to 2075.

The Government's strategy for tackling the climate change impacts of aviation are set out in the 2003 Air Transport White Paper. Our view is that the most effective way of tackling the climate change impacts of aviation is through including the aviation sector in a well designed, international emissions trading regime. This would ensure that any increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the aviation sector would be matched by a corresponding reduction in another sector, which the aviation industry would pay for.

Tolls

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to *(a)* increase the number of toll roads in England and *(b)* remove existing toll roads. [225619]

Paul Clark: There are currently no plans to increase the number of toll roads or remove tolls where currently applied. As set out in the recent document: 'Roads—Delivering Choice and Reliability', the Department for Transport is considering the role that tolled lanes could play in managing new capacity.

Trains

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train carriages have been refurbished in the last five years. [225608]

Paul Clark: Rolling stock goes through major overhaul cycles approximately every six years, which would mean the majority of rolling stock will have had some form of modernisation in the last five years. The specific information requested is not collected by the Department for Transport.

Trains: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many violent assaults there were on passengers on trains in each of the last five years. [225623]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail:

parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in the processing of partial succession payments for the *(a)* Farm Woodland Scheme and *(b)* Farm Woodland Premium Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [225879]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Out of more than 10,500 Farm Woodland Scheme (FWS) and Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (FWPS) agreements existing in 2007, only 25 of them (one FWS and 24 FWPS) have been affected by partial succession. The total value of payments due for 2007 under these 25 agreements was £38,000 and so far, £5,000 has been paid. The Forestry Commission is expecting to pay the remainder within the next four weeks.

Of the 2008 payments due this autumn, 42 agreements (three FWS and 39 FWPS) are affected by partial succession. The Forestry Commission expects to be able to make payments for all of these, provided that they are not affected by other regulatory issues, by the end of 2008.

Batteries: Recycling

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance he has received from the Waste and Resources Action Programme on the implementation of EU Directive 2006/66 on the recycling of batteries; [222738]

(2) what plans his Department has to increase capacity for battery recycling; [222740]

(3) what progress has been made towards establishing collection schemes for batteries. [222963]

Jane Kennedy: We are currently preparing regulations to implement the EU batteries directive. The directive requires greatly increased collection, treatment and recycling of batteries by 2012 with a further target by 2016. In accordance with the directive the UK regulations will require all shops who sell a significant quantity of batteries to collect batteries returned by members of the public. In addition batteries producers will need to set up other collections to meet their targets under the directive.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has worked in partnership with a range of Local Authorities and not-for-profit organisations that already run recycling collection services to pilot portable waste battery collection trials in the UK. Trials include establishing 'drop off' points at supermarkets, as well as other methods of collection such as at the kerbside.

WRAP'S full report on the results from the trials is due shortly and will be available on the WRAP and DEFRA websites. It will be used to help Government and batteries producers to identify the best methods of collecting batteries.

We expect that the additional collection, treatment and recycling required will provide opportunities for UK companies to invest in increased capacity for battery recycling.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the vaccine for bluetongue to be available; whether there are plans to provide a vaccine for each strain of the disease; and whether cattle that have been vaccinated will be allowed *(a)* into and *(b)* out of the bluetongue zone. [225455]

Jane Kennedy: The UK was the first EU member state to order Bluetongue Virus (BTV) vaccine, and on 30 April 2008, the first batches became available, ahead of schedule, for use in the Protection Zone. The protection zone was expanded over the summer and since 1 September has covered the whole of England, enabling farmers to protect their animals from the threat of Bluetongue (searotype 8).

Protection zone restrictions apply to all keepers in the zone. Animals can only be moved out of the protection zone if they are vaccinated, naturally immune or moving for slaughter, subject to meeting certain conditions.

There are currently no vaccines licensed for us in the UK for other Bluetongue serotypes. We are currently in discussion with the veterinary profession and industry stakeholders on our vaccination plans for 2009.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how many strains of bluetongue the Government has vaccines available. [225538]

Jane Kennedy: The UK was the first country in Europe to place an order for BTV8 vaccine. This vaccine is now available to farmers across England and Wales. The Government do not have available vaccines for any other BTV serotypes.

There are currently no vaccines licensed for use in the UK for other bluetongue serotypes. We are currently in discussion with the veterinary profession and industry stakeholders on our vaccination plans for 2009.

Cereals: Exports

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of grain grown in the UK were exported in each of the last three years, broken down by country of destination; and how much in each year was exported for *(a)* the production of food products and *(b)* the manufacture of bio-fuels. [226280]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the volume of cereals exported from the UK from 2005 to July 2008 broken down by country of destination. It is not possible to identify which of these will be used for food products or biofuels.

UK exports of cereals 2005 to July 2008 by destination

Thousand tonnes

Country	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[1]*
Spain	1,848	1,211	981	221
Irish Republic	273	506	305	101
Portugal	422	265	322	91
Netherlands	142	258	303	83
Germany	90	169	213	52
France	284	111	58	3

UK exports of cereals 2005 to July 2008 by destination

Thousand tonnes

Country	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
Belgium	61	57	90	70
Tunisia	122	23	19	53
Italy	51	37	47	12
Poland	—	20	4	107
Algeria	0	—	25	98
Morocco	13	18	12	65
Denmark	2	8	7	42
Saudi Arabia	55	0	0	0
Greece	15	13	13	6
Norway	—	11	15	11
Cyprus	—	3	7	15
Other countries	13	37	21	23
All countries	3,391	2,747	2,442	1,052

[1] January to July
[2] Less than half the final digit shown
Note:
2008 data are subject to amendments
Source:
H M Revenue and Customs

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned in relation to household waste prevention and restriction in the last five years. [224620]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Evidence Programme is completing a number of research projects under the themes of household waste prevention and behaviour change as listed as follows. 12 such projects were funded in 2005-06 and a further four projects were added to this portfolio in 2006-07.

Title

Understanding Household Waste Prevention Behaviour

Building greater understanding of the techniques and processes required to promote sustainable waste management through behaviour change programmes

Achieving household waste prevention and promoting sustainable resource use through product service systems

Project REDUCE Monitoring and Evaluation—Developing tools to measure waste prevention

Developing a programme of practical waste minimisation schemes to take forward recent research on consumer behaviour and behavioural change

Household Waste Prevention Policy Side Research Programme

Household Waste Prevention Activity in Dorset

Lifestyle Scenarios: The Futures for Waste Composition

Modelling the Impact of Lifestyle Changes on Household Waste Arisings

Social enterprises and sustainable waste and resource management: Evaluating impacts, capacities and opportunities

Replicating Success: Social enterprises and the waste sector in London

Establishing the behaviour change evidence base to inform community-based waste prevention and recycling

Benefits of Community Sector involvement in Waste Management

Attitudes to use of Organic Resources on Land

Enhancing participation in kitchen waste collection scheme

Assessing the potential role of community initiatives in biowaste collection and processing.

The Department has just commissioned a review study to help distil the evidence emerging from this and other research focussed on waste prevention. This new project is scheduled to report in the spring of 2009. The project team will work with DEFRA staff to consolidate findings from the Waste and Resources Evidence Programme, the Environmental Behaviours Unit and other parts of DEFRA, together with work undertaken by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Environment Agency and other relevant published work.

Fisheries: Nature Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions at EU level to seek to ensure that action to prevent fishing activity on sites designated as being of European importance is taken under the Habitats Directive. [222737]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My officials are in regular contact with the Commission on this matter. While sites of Community importance are designated under the EC habitats directive (92/43/EEC) any action that may be required to restrict fishing activity in these areas would be taken under the common fisheries policy.

Flood Control: Agriculture

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has budgeted to spend on projects investigating the contribution of farming to flood attenuation on flood plains in the next three years. [225309]

Jane Kennedy: There is a large body of current research examining the impact of land use and land management on flood risk management. Examples include the Environment Agency funded flood risk management research consortium and the DEFRA-led multi-objective flood management demonstration project, which is spending £500,000 to look at the impact of land use management on flood risk management.

The Environment Agency's science programme spends over £4 million annually investigating flood and coastal risk. The programme contains projects that consider the impact farming can have on flood risk.

Floods: Farms

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will amend regulations to allow farmers easier access to their land during flood conditions. [224810]

Jane Kennedy: As part of the cross-compliance requirements linked to EU direct aid payments, EU member states must define minimum requirements for good agricultural and environmental condition. One such requirement in England is a restriction on farmers carrying out mechanical field operations or using motorised vehicles on waterlogged soil to maintain soil structure and prevent compaction when soils are waterlogged.

Where exceptional weather conditions exist the Secretary of State can grant temporary exemptions from that requirement to enable farmers to, for example, harvest their crops. The Secretary of State granted such an exemption on 10 September this year until 4 October due to the exceptional weather conditions and this has recently been extended until 25 October. A similar exemption was also granted last year. It is important to note that farmers are still required to assess any resulting damage to soil and take remedial action as soon as possible.

Floods: Livestock

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of loss of livestock incurred in the recent floods. [224808]

Jane Kennedy: The floods in the north-east in September caused considerable difficulties to livestock farmers in the area. We have not assessed the number of livestock lost but local estimates indicate the numbers were relatively low, although a small number of individual farmers may have faced significant losses. Local and regional bodies, including local authorities, One North East, and representatives from the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and Animal Health, worked closely together to assist those affected.

Floods: Morpeth

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the operation of flood warnings to parts of Morpeth during the recent floods. [225510]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency is assessing the operation of flood warnings in Morpeth during the recent floods. The Environment Agency is reviewing the number and extent of warning areas and is revising its procedures to ensure that only the correct sequence of warnings can be issued in Morpeth.

Food: Procurement

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made on the development of a local food procurement policy. [226228]

Jane Kennedy: The legal framework governing public procurement does not allow public bodies to give greater weight to locally produced food and drink when awarding contracts. This is because public bodies are required to ensure public procurement is fair, transparent and not used to discriminate by setting up barriers to free trade. It would also reduce competition contrary to UK public procurement policy that is designed to achieve value for money for the taxpayer.

The legal and policy framework does provide public bodies with plenty of flexibility to be innovative in their procurement and, for example, we are encouraging them through the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) to increase tendering opportunities for small and local producers. How they can do this is explained in the advice on the PSFPI website, including the guides "Putting it into practice" and "How to increase opportunities for small and local producers when aggregating food procurement".

Incinerators: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department uses when formulating guidance for the public and local authorities about the assessment of safety of incinerator bottom ash. [225228]

Jane Kennedy: My Department has not produced any guidance on the assessment of the safety of incinerator bottom ash. The Environment Agency, as the principal regulator for the waste controls in England and Wales, has recently produced a position note on the classification of incinerator bottom ash, which is available on their website.

Incinerators: Pollution

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research the Environment Agency has undertaken in conjunction with the Environmental Services Association to evaluate the toxicity testing of incinerator bottom ash; [225188]

(2) what are the most recent test results on the toxicity of incinerator bottom ash to have been made public; [225225]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the study undertaken by the Environmental Services Association with the support of the Environment Agency on H14 ecotoxicity testing of incinerator bottom ash. [225227]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency has not undertaken any research in conjunction with the Environmental Services Association to evaluate the toxicity testing of incinerator bottom ash. However, we understand a study was undertaken by the Environmental Services Association into this issue, but the Department has not seen and does not possess its results.

More generally, the operators of incinerators are required by their environmental permits to report periodically on the elemental composition of the bottom ashes produced by the incinerators. These reports do not equate to test results on toxicity testing. The reports are placed on the Environment Agency's Public Register and can be inspected at the Environment Agency's Area offices.

Landfill: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what toxicity tests his Department requires to be undertaken of landfill disposal of non-hazardous waste. [225226]

Jane Kennedy: Where waste is destined for landfill, it is the responsibility of the waste producer to characterise the waste and determine whether it is non-hazardous. Non-hazardous waste is not required to be tested for toxicity.

Landfill operators may be required to carry out certain monitoring and testing under the terms of their environmental permit.

Marine Bill: Draft

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration has been given to merging the provisions of the Marine Bill and the Marine Navigation Bill in a single Bill. [225820]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The links between the Marine Bill and Marine Navigation Bill have been considered and the issue was briefly discussed by the Joint Committee on the Draft Marine Bill during its pre-legislative scrutiny. Work on the Marine Navigation Bill is being led by the Department for Transport. The Marine Bill is concerned with creating and delivering a strategic management framework for the UK's marine resources. By contrast, the Marine Navigation Bill is concerned very specifically with improving safety at sea and in our ports, and with updating the powers of the bodies responsible for maritime safety.

Although there is no direct linkage between the Marine Navigation Bill and the Marine Bill, there are possible synergies with the proposals for the setting up of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to deliver marine functions around the UK, such as licensing. In this they are complementary, sharing aims of better regulation, but the two Bills are otherwise too different to justify combining them into a single Bill.

Pigeons: Avian Influenza

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to undertake a new risk assessment on the impact of avian influenza on racing pigeons. [222613]

Jane Kennedy: The veterinary risk assessment (VRA) relating to pigeon racing and avian influenza has been reviewed and as a result the General Licence for bird gatherings was amended. This took place on 8 September and details can be found on our website.

Racing pigeons are no longer required to undergo a seven day isolation following a race from continental Europe and pigeons from outside the UK will no longer be required to be in the UK for 28 days prior to a race. This means that pigeons from continental Europe can now be gathered with birds from the UK without undergoing a quarantine period.

In the event of an avian influenza outbreak or case, DEFRA will assess if the General Licence in force at that time needs to be revoked or amended.

Plastics: Waste Disposal

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the outcomes of research on the dissolution of polythene by the application of microbes for his policy to reduce the amount of plastic packaging in the waste stream; and if he will make a statement. [225393]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA are aware of academic research on this issue in the USA and Japan. The technology would need considerable development before it can be applied in industrial use.

In the meantime, we are looking at other ways to reduce the amount of plastic packaging used at source, including through reducing the amount of plastic used per unit of packaging.

DEFRA is commissioning evidence reviews to identify the life cycle impacts of various types of plastic; this will help determine our future policies on plastics packaging.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by his Department and its predecessor has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [221932]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W.

Rabies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of rabies were reported in the UK in each of the last three years; and what steps the Government are taking to reduce the incidence of rabies world-wide. [225432]

Jane Kennedy: There have been no cases of classical rabies in the last three years (September 2005 to October 2008) in the UK outside of UK quarantine facilities. Rabies was confirmed in two puppies in a UK quarantine facility in Chingford in April this year. These puppies were imported into quarantine from Sri Lanka.

A strain of rabies called European Bat Lyssavirus (or bat rabies) has been found in Daubenton's bats in the UK on three occasions since September 2005. Details are available on the DEFRA website.

Action against rabies disease worldwide is the responsibility of the Department for International Development.

DEFRA supports a large programme of research into rabies and related viruses, with some £500,000 committed annually for studies undertaken at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) and the Central Science Laboratory (CSL).

There are two main thrusts to the work underway, with VLA taking forward studies to characterise rabies viruses isolated from across the globe that will develop our knowledge of potential threats and inform on effectiveness of vaccines. The VLA also serve as the international reference laboratory for rabies and take forward research on the development and validation of diagnostic tests.

The research at CSL seeks to understand the ecology and management of wildlife vectors of rabies in support of contingency planning for wildlife rabies control.

Sewers

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the transfer of all private sewers and lateral drains that drain to the public sewer to the ownership and responsibility of water and sewerage companies; and if he will make a statement. [225316]

Jane Kennedy: The Government announced in February 2007 its decision to transfer private sewers and lateral drains draining to the public sewerage system into water company ownership. We subsequently published a public consultation in July 2007 on implementation options for the proposed transfer. The consultation also posed questions on the scope of assets to be included in the transfer and ways in which the creation of new private sewers can be prevented.

A summary of responses was published in March 2008 and we are currently preparing proposals for implementation with the help of a steering group of key stakeholders. The work of the steering group will inform the decision on the timing of transfer and the drafting of regulations to implement the transfer. We expect to be in a position to make an announcement on implementation later this year. A detailed breakdown of consultation responses is available on DEFRA's web pages.

Tobacco: Agriculture

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which EU countries grow tobacco; and how much EU subsidy tobacco producers in each such country received in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [226231]

Jane Kennedy: Tobacco is grown primarily in Italy and Greece. Smaller quantities are also grown in Spain, France, Portugal, Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Romania, Belgium and Austria. Overall, production is in decline.

A CAP production aid is payable to EU tobacco producers until its agreed abolition in 2010. Total expenditure on this aid in 2007 was €335.5 million. We do not have a breakdown of expenditure by member state.

Warm Front Scheme

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the costs of asbestos removal are factored in to grants under the Warm Front Scheme. [222007]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Asbestos removal is only undertaken when its presence directly impedes the installation of heating and/or insulation measures. The removal of asbestos to enable the installation of insulation measures is judged on a case by case basis, where the cost to remove the asbestos and the improvement of energy efficiency are considered. The costs incurred in undertaking asbestos removal are met using Warm Front funding, but are not assigned to any individual householder's grant monies.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures are in place to assess the satisfaction of householders with the completion of works under the Warm Front Scheme. [222009]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Eaga and DEFRA have procedures that both directly and indirectly assess the quality of work and associated customer satisfaction in the Warm Front Scheme.

A works completion certificate must be signed by customers for each measure provided through the Warm Front Scheme. This certificate is a declaration that work is complete and fitted to the satisfaction of the customer. Without a valid signed certificate Eaga will not pay for work invoiced. In addition to this, 100 per cent. of heating works and 5 per cent. of insulation works undertaken through the scheme are independently inspected to ensure they meet the high levels of quality installation expected of the scheme. Installers are required to perform any remedial work identified at inspection within 28 days of notification. Remedial actions resulting in inspection failure have the same timeline imposed and will be re-inspected once action is taken.

Where a customer may not wish to discuss their concerns directly or face to face, Eaga also provides quality assurance through several other media including e-mail, letter, the availability of customer service staff and related installer management back office support.

Twice a year Eaga also commissions independent measurement of Warm Front customer satisfaction at each of the six stages of service delivery, commencing with initial contact through to the provision of aftercare.

Finally, Eaga carries out several focus groups each year both with Warm Front customers and service delivery staff. Information gleaned is acted on appropriately as part of its commitment to continuous improvement.

DEFRA itself gauges customer satisfaction through customer opinion polls undertaken by National Energy Action, and also by means of twice yearly audits of the scheme by White Young Green and periodic audits by the National Audit Office.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department takes to ensure that grant limits for householders under the Warm Front Scheme are set in line with cost of works charged by contractors in their local market; [222021]

(2) what steps his Department takes to ensure that prices quoted for work under the Warm Front Scheme reflect those charged locally by contractors outside the scheme. [222022]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Although the Warm Front Scheme household grant limit is set centrally and is applicable across England, the scheme does provide a higher grant of £4,000 for oil central heating for properties off the gas network in view of the additional cost of these installations, in comparison to £2,700 for all other systems.

The prices charged for Warm Front have been set regionally to reflect the local installer market. Installers in each region provided independent quotations for each installation type, and the most economically

advantageous quotes (in most instances the lowest) were selected. The prices of these selected tenders were averaged and set as the installer rate for that region.

These processes were overseen by independent quality assessors, employed by DEFRA, to ensure the prices charged by the scheme are fair and reflect the market rate. These quality assessors have since undertaken reviews of Warm Front pricing to ensure Warm Front charges continue to offer value for money. These reviews are available on the DEFRA website.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Warm Front budget was in each of the last five years. [223898]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 548.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to monitor the end use of boilers identified as in need of replacement through the Warm Front scheme. [223966]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Eaga plc, the Warm Front Scheme Manager, regularly audits every installer on a number of operational fronts. As part of the environmental audit Eaga checks a proportion of the heating jobs to ensure that all of the necessary paperwork is present. Where a boiler is replaced the installer is responsible for the safe disposal of the old boiler. For this a registered waste disposal company removes the boiler, this may be the installer or their registered subcontractor, to a registered waste disposal site and a waste disposal note is obtained from the site operators.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to prevent fraudulent use of fuel-switching grants offered by the Warm Front scheme. [223967]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Warm Front Scheme does not offer Fuel Switching grants.

Waterwise: Finance

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from which sources Waterwise receives public funding. [225909]

Jane Kennedy: Not-for-profit NGO Waterwise receives no core funding from the Government. Its core funding is about £300,000 per annum, which is received from all water undertakers in the UK, both public and private. Its programme funding, which is an additional £350,000, is self-generated through income-raising activities. This includes an annual conference, the Waterwise Marque, partnerships with corporate and other NGOs, as well as research projects. DEFRA, the Communities and Local Government, the Greater London authority and the Environment Agency have all contributed funds for specific projects.

TREASURY

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the dates were of each meeting he and his predecessor held with the Chairman of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to discuss the adequacy of regulatory oversight of the financing models for British-based banks; and if he will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* post on his Department's website copies of all correspondence between him and his predecessor and the FSA on banking oversight and reform since January 2006. [226134]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers meet the chairman and chief executive of the Financial Services Authority regularly to discuss a range of issues.

Bradford and Bingley

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from mutual organisations on the financial effect on them as a result of the Bradford and Bingley rescue; and if he will make a statement. [225973]

Ian Pearson: It is right that action to protect Bradford and Bingley depositors should over time be funded by members of the FSCS through the levy mechanism.

It is the FSA that sets out how different classes of member of the FSCS may be levied in different circumstances in its rules.

Civil Servants: Relocation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Civil Service jobs have been relocated to the North East of England under the Lyons Review. [218620]

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public service jobs have been re-allocated from the South East to the North East of England in the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [222078]

Yvette Cooper: By December 2007, 750 posts had been relocated to the North East as part of the relocation programme. Overall, 3,580 civil service posts have been created in the North East since 2003.

Debts

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* household and *(b)* business indebtedness in (i) each Parliamentary constituency, (ii) each area covered by a regional development agency, (iii) Northern Ireland, (iv) Scotland and (v) Wales. [225952]

Angela Eagle: Data on household and business balance sheets are published by the Office for National Statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. However, this data is not available by parliamentary constituency or region.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul flights. [222033]

Angela Eagle: In 2006-07 the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund were only broken down into long haul and short haul, but for 2007-08 a third category for domestic flights has been added for calculation purposes.

The mileage used for calculations for GCOF payments is as follows:

Miles

	Short haul	*Long haul*	*Domestic*
2006-07[1]	1,954,044	1,533,738	—
2007-08[2]	190,127	780,756	1,023,189

[1] These are for HM Treasury, but included some flights taken by Debt Management Office.
[2] These figures are for HM Treasury.

Excise Duties: Fuel Oil

Colin Challen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has assessed of the likely effect of the rate of duty to be applied to waste-derived fuel oil from 1 November 2008 on *(a)* the volume of hazardous waste oil recovered and reprocessed, *(b)* the level of investment in the collection and reprocessing of hazardous waste oil, *(c)* the volume of secondary fuel product manufactured, *(d)* the volume of hazardous waste oil sent to landfill and *(e)* the volume of hazardous waste oil incinerated; [226128]

(2) if the Government will *(a)* delay the introduction of hydrocarbon oil duty until the Waste Oils Protocol project is complete and *(b)* exercise the discretion provided under the Energy Products Directive to observe differentiation in the application of hydrocarbon oil duty to reflect the product quality and environmental impact of different waste-derived fuel oils once the Waste Oils Protocol project is complete; [226130]

(3) what assessment he has made of whether the rate of duty to be applied to waste-derived fuel oil from 1 November 2008 is consistent with Government obligations under the Waste Framework Directive to encourage the recovery and reuse of waste; [226132]

(4) for what reasons the Government has decided not to exercise the discretion to date provided under the Energy Products Directive to observe differentiation in the application of hydrocarbon oil duty to reflect the product quality and environmental impact of different waste-derived fuel oils; [226133]

(5) what factors the Government took into account when deciding to apply a rate of duty of 9.29 pence per litre, rather than the 15 euros per 1,000 kilograms minimum required under the Energy Products Directive. [226818]

Angela Eagle: The UK is required to impose duty on waste oils reused as fuel as a result of the European Commission's refusal to renew our derogation from the EU energy products directive. The imposition of duty should have no adverse affects on the volume of waste oil recovered, as correct disposal of hazardous waste is a legal requirement.

The imposition of duty at the rate to be applied is consistent with the relevant EU directives, which require member states to take measures to give preference to the regeneration of waste oil above combustion.

Ordnance Survey: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 465W, on Ordnance Survey: databases, how much the Ordnance Survey has spent advertising the products listed in the answer. [225631]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

In the year 2007-08, the last complete year for which information is available, Ordnance Survey spent a total of £25,500 on advertising the digital data products 1:10 000 scale raster, 1:50 000 scale colour raster, 1:250 000 scale colour raster, Land-Line Plus, OS MasterMap Topography Layer, OS MasterMap Address Layer, OS MasterMap Address Layer 2, ADDRESS-POINT, Boundary-Line and Code-Point with Polygons.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by his Department has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [222035]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Home Department (Mr. Coaker) on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W. Of the legislation he referred to, my Department has sponsored the following:

(a) Primary legislation.

(1) The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000; and

(2) The Finance Act 2003.

(b) Secondary legislation

(1) The Money Laundering Regulations 2007 (SI 2157/2007);

(2) The Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2007 (SI 3298/2007); and

(3) The Biofuels and Other Fuel Substitutes (Payment of Excise Duties etc.) Regulations 2004.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Government's factual paper on the Barnett formula will be published. [226929]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 729W.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a document containing the underlying assumptions for the Government's latest estimate of total public service pension scheme liabilities. [215382]

Yvette Cooper: The underlying assumptions for the Government's latest estimate of total unfunded public service scheme liabilities are explained in paragraph 4.14 of the March 2008 Long Term Public Finance Report, in particular Box 4.3 on page 38, published on Budget day.

This document can be found here:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/AE/bud08_longterm 586.pdf

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new public sector pensions were opened in each of the last 10 years. [226164]

Yvette Cooper: Membership data on individual public sector pension schemes is available in their published resource accounts.

Taxation: Aviation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department has issued to airline companies on the refunding of tax on unused airline tickets. [225819]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury gave to the hon. Member for Altrincham and Sale, West (Mr. Brady) on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 591W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

China: Taiwan

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to facilitate the development of relations between Taiwan and mainland China since the election of President Ma in March 2008. [221703]

Bill Rammell: On 22 March my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary publicly encouraged increased dialogue between China and Taiwan to resolve differences, with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the Taiwan question acceptable to the people on both sides of the Strait. We have taken every opportunity since then to convey these views to the Chinese government, and through unofficial channels, to the Taiwanese authorities. We have given strong support to EU statements to the same end.

We have also encouraged both sides to find solutions to allow Taiwan's greater participation in selected multilateral forums where this is important to global interests. In particular, we look forward to a solution before next year's World Health Assembly which will allow Taiwan's more effective participation in the global health safety net.

Diplomatic Service: Tolls

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries' diplomatic missions have indicated to his Department that they will not pay the London congestion charge. [223471]

Gillian Merron: The diplomatic missions of the following countries have indicated that they will not pay the London congestion charge:

Austria;
Belgium;
Belarus;
Bulgaria;
Cameroon;
Cyprus;
Czech Republic;
Denmark;
Finland;
France;
Germany;
Greece;
Hungary;
India;
Japan;
Kenya;
Latvia;
Lithuania;
Malta;
Mexico;
Moldova;
Poland;
Romania;
Russia;
Slovak Republic;
Slovenia;
Spain;
Uganda;
USA.

Pakistan: Detainees

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 13 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 2317W, what recent steps the High Commission in Karachi has taken to gain consular access to Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh; what recent reports he has received on the progress of Mr Sheikh's case; and if he will make a statement. [222505]

Bill Rammell: Our high commission in Islamabad has continued to make representations to the national and provincial authorities in Pakistan with regard to gaining consular access to Mr. Sheikh. Consular staff in Karachi are in contact with Mr. Sheikh's lawyer about progress on his case.

Republic of Ireland: Personal Savings

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to lodge a formal complaint at the European Commission against the government of Ireland's decision to guarantee all Irish savings deposits. [225412]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government continue to be engaged in discussion with the Irish authorities, other member states, and the European Commission on issues relating to deposit guarantee schemes in the EU, including the recent meeting of EU Finance Ministers (ECOFIN) which took place in Luxembourg on 7 October. The Irish government has recently announced that certain subsidiaries of foreign banks would be able to join this scheme.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the one day count of antisocial behaviour published in September 2003, whether her Department has conducted a more recent study of the number of daily reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in England and Wales. [221473]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office has not conducted a recent study on the number of daily reported incidents of antisocial behaviour in England and Wales.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to encourage local authorities to assist in reducing antisocial behaviour. [225338]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* We have provided practitioners with a wide range of tools and powers to tackle antisocial behaviour, issued guidance on their use, provide information through a practitioner website and set up a free telephone advice line to provide specific support on individual problems. We also deliver regional workshops to help local practitioners make the best use of the available tools and powers.

Asylum

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many asylum seekers' applications had been outstanding for *(a)* six months to one year, *(b)* one to two years, *(c)* two to three years, *(d)* three to four years, *(e)* four to five years, *(f)* five to six years, *(g)* six to seven years, *(h)* seven to eight years, *(i)* eight to nine years, *(j)* nine to 10 years and *(k)* more than 10 years on 31 December in each of the last 11 years; [224550]

(2) how many outstanding asylum seekers' applications there were on 31 December in each of the last 11 years. [224555]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of cases awaiting initial decision at the end of the year for 1997 to 2007.

Cases awaiting initial decision at end of year[1, 2]

This information is available from Table 1.1 in the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007 for 1998 to 2007

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf

and from table 1.1 in the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2006 for 1997

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1407.pdf

Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the house and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Information about the length of time that asylum applications have been outstanding can only be obtained at disproportionate cost by examination of each of the individual case records.

[1] Data for 1997 and 1998 are not directly comparable with figures for later years.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

	Number of cases awaiting initial decision outcome at end of year
1997	51,800
1998	64,800
1999	125,100
2000	94,500
2001	42,200
2002	41,300
2003	23,900
2004	9,700
2005	5,500
2006	6,400
2007[1]	6,800

[1] Provisional figures.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long it took on average to process an asylum seeker's application in each of the last 11 years. [224554]

Mr. Woolas: Information is available only for average time to initial decision. The following table shows the average time to initial decisions for cases decided between 1997 and 2007. The number of decisions in each year is also shown.

Average time to initial decision and number of decisions, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

Year of decision	*Average time in months*	*Number of decisions*[5]
1997	22	32,500
1998	17	31,570
1999	35	33,720
2000	18	109,205
2001	13	120,950
2002	7	83,540
2003	10	64,940
2004	13	46,020
2005	12	27,395
2006[6]	8	20,930
2007[6]	7	21,775

[1] Excluding dependants.

[2] Figures are estimates based on cases for which information is recorded.

[3] Prior to 2000 based on data from Refugee Index, and the A-CID database for 2000-07.

[4] The average length of time (in months) is calculated from date application is lodged to the date of initial decision, and relates to the year in which the decisions were made.

[5] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

[6] Provisional figures.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers entered the UK in each of the last 11 years; and how many such people were aged *(a)* under 18 years and *(b)* 18 years and over. [224556]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of principal asylum applications received in the UK between 1997 and 2007 at a port of entry or at some stage after having entered the country. Figures for 1997 to 2000 have been estimated by applying published percentages for the age categories to the number of total asylum seekers.

Further information on asylum is published annually and quarterly and is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Number of principal asylum applications received in the UK by age group, 1997 to 2007[1]

	Number of asylum seekers aged under 18 years	*Number of asylum seekers aged 18 years and over*
1997	1,600	30,900
1998	4,600	41,400
1999	3,600	67,600
2000	6,400	73,900
2001	8,705	62,660
2002	12,435	71,700
2003	7,865	41,545
2004	6,205	27,755
2005	5,165	20,550
2006	4,580	19,030
2007[2]	3,975	19,420

[1] Figures for 1997 to 2000 have been estimated by applying published percentages of the age categories to the total asylum seekers population. As a result, these data have been rounded to the nearest 100. Data for 2001 to 2007 are rounded to the nearest five.
[2] Provisional figures.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Afghani, *(b)* Belarusian, *(c)* Burmese, *(d)* Chinese, *(e)* Colombian, *(f)* Cuban, *(g)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(h)* Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *(i)* Iranian, *(j)* Iraqi, *(k)* Israeli, *(l)* Nepalese, *(m)* Pakistani, *(n)* Russian, *(o)* Saudi Arabian, *(p)* Syrian, *(q)* Turkmenistani, *(r)* Uzbekistani and *(s)* Vietnamese nationals were refused asylum in the UK in each of the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years; and how many in each category are awaiting a decision on an asylum application. [225298]

Mr. Woolas: The accompanying two tables give the most recently published figures available and show the total number of refusals for *(a)* Afghani, *(b)* Belarussian, *(c)* Burmese, *(d)* Chinese, *(e)* Colombian, *(f)* Cuban, *(g)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(h)* Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *(i)* Iranian, *(j)* Iraqi, *(k)* Israeli, *(l)* Nepalese, *(m)* Pakistani, *(n)* Russian, *(o)* Saudi Arabian, *(p)* Syrian, *(q)* Turkmenistani, *(r)* Uzbekistani and *(s)* Vietnamese nationals people, following initial decisions, (i) between July 2007 and June 2008 and (ii) for each of the last five calendar years.

The published figure for asylum applications split by nationality for people awaiting an initial decision is not available as the figures are based on an overall manual count which is not broken down into separate categories.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Information on many of the nationalities requested are available in these publications. Annual Statistics for 2007 and quarterly statistics for 2008 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum refusals[1] *on initial decisions in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants 2003-07*

Total refusals

Nationality	*Afghanistan*	*Belarus*	*Myanmar (Burma)*	*China*	*Colombia*	*Cuba*	*Dem. Rep. of Congo*	*Korea (North)*	*Iran*
2003	3,375	160	105	3,690	315	20	1,685	*	2,930
2004	2,225	180	80	2,525	150	20	1,540	45	3,590
2005	1,050	50	35	1,685	65	15	985	10	2,850
2006	1,310	40	30	1,600	45	15	470	10	1,850
2007[2]	1,490	40	40	1,860	30	10	315	25	1,665

Total refusals

Nationality	*Iraq*	*Israel*	*Nepal*	*Pakistan*	*Russia*	*Saudi Arabia*	*Syria*	*Turkmenistan*	*Uzbekistan*	*Vietnam*
2003	4,580	50	290	2,050	340	0	120	10	20	970
2004	4,615	45	195	1,795	215	*	255	5	25	675
2005	1,676	30	70	1,040	115	0	315	5	15	295
2006	650	15	45	690	85	0	145	5	15	60
2007[2]	1,090	15	25	775	85	0	110	5	20	110

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, (*=1 or 2).
[2] Provisional figures

Asylum refusals on initial decisions[1,2] *in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants July 2007-June 2008 by month*

Total refusals

Nationality	*Afghanistan*	*Belarus*	*Myanmar (Burma)*	*China*	*Colombia*	*Cuba*	*Dem. Rep. of Congo*	*Korea (North)*	*Iran*
2007									
July	125	5	10	155	5	0	50	*	120
August	115	0	5	185	5	5	25	*	100
September	90	*	5	185	*	0	20	5	70
October	120	5	*	170	5	*	10	*	115

Asylum refusals on initial decisions[1,2] in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants July 2007-June 2008 by month

Nationality	Afghanistan	Belarus	Myanmar (Burma)	China	Colombia	Cuba	Dem. Rep. of Congo	Korea (North)	Iran	Total refusals
November	115	*	5	115	*	0	15	5	100	
December	70	*	*	95	0	0	10	5	65	
2008										
January	105	*	*	135	*	*	15	5	110	
February	105	5	5	70	*	0	15	10	100	
March	100	0	5	45	*	0	15	5	75	
April	115	0	5	75	0	*	15	10	105	
May	85	0	5	70	*	0	15	10	100	
June	100	*	5	85	*	0	15	10	125	

Nationality	Iraq	Israel	Nepal	Pakistan	Russia	Saudi Arabia	Syria	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan	Vietnam	Total refusals
2007											
July	85	*	*	55	10	0	10	0	5	15	
August	85	5	0	50	5	0	10	0	0	5	
September	70	0	*	50	5	0	5	*	0	15	
October	100	*	*	65	5	0	10	0	5	5	
November	80	*	5	75	5	0	5	0	0	10	
December	60	*	0	45	5	0	10	0	*	10	
2008											
January	80	*	0	50	5	0	5	0	0	5	
February	100	*	*	60	*	0	5	0	0	15	
March	100	*	*	60	*	0	5	*	0	10	
April	95	0	*	75	5	0	5	0	5	5	
May	65	*	*	65	*	0	5	0	0	10	
June	80	*	*	45	5	0	5	*	0	5	

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, (* = 1 or 2)
[2] Provisional figures

Asylum: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people seeking asylum are registered as living in Bassetlaw constituency. [224825]

Mr. Woolas: The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support are available broken down by Government Office Region, local authority and parliamentary constituency; these regional breakdowns are available from December 2002. There were two or less people in receipt of support in each of the quarters from Q3 2007 to Q2 2008 in the parliamentary constituency of Bassetlaw.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Asylum: Deportation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were deported from the UK in each of the last 11 years. [224551]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of asylum seekers removed, including voluntary departures, from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. The latest published information is provided in the following table and can be found in Table 6.1 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007 bulletin:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns of asylum applicants[1] from the United Kingdom, 1997 to 2007[2]

	Asylum cases		
	Principal	Dependants[3]	Total
1997	7,165	n/a	n/a
1998	6,990	n/a	n/a
1999[4]	7,665	n/a	n/a
2000[4]	8,980	n/a	n/a
2001[4]	9,285	1,495	10,780
2002	10,740	3,170	13,910
2003	13,005	4,890	17,895
2004	12,595	2,315	14,915
2005	13,730	1,955	15,685
2006	16,330	1,950	18,280
2007[5]	12,705	1,000	13,705

n/a = not available.
[1] Includes enforced removals, port asylum removals which have been performed by enforcement officers using port powers of removal (and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, since January 1999 persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[3] Data on dependants removed are not available before April 2001.
[4] Figures may include a small number of dependants leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes.
[5] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Kuwait

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Kuwaiti Bidoons have claimed asylum in the United Kingdom in the last five years. [225487]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on asylum applications is published quarterly. Copies of asylum publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Asylum: Occupied Territories

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from the Occupied Palestinian Territories were refused asylum in the UK in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years; and how many are awaiting a decision on an asylum application. [225296]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on asylum applications is published quarterly. Copies of asylum publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Asylum: Sudan

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Darfuris have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused asylum in the UK in the last three years. [224826]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of nationals of Sudan that have been granted and refused asylum in the United Kingdom in the last three years can be found in tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007, link attached:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf

and is also available in the Library of the House. It is not known how many Darfuris are included and this could be obtained only by examination of individual case records.

Crime Prevention: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of computer modelling of crime and its causes. [217325]

Jacqui Smith: Officials in the Home Department use a wide range of techniques to analyse crime and its causes, drawn from economics, social research, statistics and operational research. Alongside the qualitative assessment of crime and its effects, models of the causes of crime can help us understand the simultaneous impact of those causes and show which are the most significant.

Crime: Business

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time members of staff her Department employs to deal with business crime. [221381]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Many parts of the Home Office support work to tackle crimes affecting business. This includes developing responses to specific crimes such as fraud, e-crime, retail crime, commercial robbery and criminal damage as well as work to encourage and support business to work closely in partnership with the police and local authorities through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). All of this activity is supported by a number of staff who provide performance advice, and statistical and analytical support.

Crime: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prolific and priority offenders there were in each Basic Command Unit in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area at *(a)* 31 December 2007, *(b)* 30 March 2008 and *(c)* 30 June 2008; and if she will make a statement. [226101]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The most recent data available from the performance management arrangements for the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme covers the period from January to March 2008. This shows that there were 134 Prolific and other Priority Offenders within the area covered by Cambridgeshire Constabulary at the end of March this year. The figure for the end of December 2007 was 135.

A more detailed breakdown is given in the table.

Basic Command Unit	*CDRP/PPO scheme*	*December 2007*	*March 2008*
Southern	Cambridge	35	35
Southern	East Cambridgeshire	9	9
Southern	South Cambridgeshire	6	6
Central	Fenland	13	13
Central	Huntingdonshire	43	42
Northern	Peterborough	29	29

Crime: Economic Situation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to address potential increases in levels of crime resulting from a downturn in the economy. [223849]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since March 2003, overall crime has fallen by 18 per cent., exceeding the 15 per cent. target set out in the Home Office's public service agreement. That reduction is greater than would have been forecast based on socio-economic factors alone, and the Department is confident that the right policies and systems are in place to continue to cut crime and that they provide the flexibility needed to respond to future economic challenges.

Crime: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of (i) public order offences and (ii) offences against the person in the Torbay area in each of the last seven years. [225373]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the Offences against the persons Act 1861 s.18, 20, and 47, and the Public Order Act 1986 s.1 to 5, in Devon and Cornwall police force area, 2000 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data are unable to be broken down further than police force area level; hence data has been provided for Devon and Cornwall police force area in lieu of Torbay area.

Charging data are not held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Therefore prosecution data is provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the Offences against the persons Act 1861 s.18, 20, and 47, and the Public Order Act 1986 s.1 to 5, in Devon and Cornwall police force area, 2000 to 2006[1,2]

	Offences against the person Act 1861, s.18, 20, and 47		*Public Order Act 1986 s.1 to 5*	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
2000	918	506	1,748	1,117
2001	850	435	1,647	985
2002	1,060	515	1,630	949
2003	1,104	574	1,525	968
2004	992	530	1,343	966
2005	900	517	1,301	844
2006	686	447	1,174	787

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit

Crimes Against Humanity

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the War Crimes Unit in the Border Agency investigated for *(a)* suspected war crimes, *(b)* crimes against humanity and *(c)* genocide in each year since 2004. [224629]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows numbers of cases considered by the war crimes team in each year. The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Cases considered by war crimes team

	Number
2004	49
2005	347
2006	326
2007	600
2008 (January to September)	541

The figures cover all cases in the three categories requested. The information could not be further broken down into the individual categories without the detailed examination of individual case records.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many private contractors have been granted access to personal data held by her Department in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [223603]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 11 September 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the agencies for which her Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [226491]

Mr. Woolas: Details of the prompt payment record can be found in the annual report section (page 23) of the Department's 2007-08 Resource Accounts on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/resource-accounts-07-08

It is the Department's policy to pay its suppliers within 30 days of the receipt of a valid invoice, and it subscribes to the CBI code and the British Standard (BS 7890) on the prompt payment of suppliers.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many security passes of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its departmental agencies were reported (i) lost and (ii) stolen in each year since 2001. [195037]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* The number of Home Office security passes reported lost or stolen (broken down where known) yearly since 2001 are in the table. As soon as passes are reported missing, they can be deactivated to prevent entry to the circle door locks. The passes do not have any logo to indicate that they can provide access to the Home Office or a particular building. This is in accordance with the Cabinet Office Manual of Protective Security, which advises each Department to have its own design.

The number of passes reported lost or stolen increased over 2002-06 due in part to the increase in the numbers of staff and contractors employed but also to improvements in record keeping.

Table 1: Number of Home Office passes lost or stolen since 2001

	Number
2001	64
2002	138
2003	291
2004	321
2005	
Lost	292
Stolen	18
2006	
Lost	396
Stolen	32
2007	
Lost	443
Stolen	44
2008 (to end July)	
Lost	227
Stolen	24

Drugs: Smuggling

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* convicted of drug trafficking offences as a result of operations by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [219437]

Jacqui Smith: In 2006-07, SOCA recorded that there were 601 arrests and 236 convictions in operations where drug trafficking offences was the primary threat. Similarly in 2007-08 there were 774 arrests and 243 convictions in operations where drug trafficking was the primary threat.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to introduce a degree of flexibility on deadlines for visa applications that are held up owing to tribunal hearings. [225516]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* A visa application will not be held up by a tribunal hearing. Certain categories of visa decisions may be referred to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, but only after an initial decision to refuse the visa has been made.

Genetics: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many samples from *(a)* those with no conviction, *(b)* those with no conviction but whose DNA was found at the scene of a crime and *(c)* others were stored on the national DNA database in each year since the database was created. [191198]

Jacqui Smith: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) does not contain any information about criminal records, as this is not necessary for its function of matching DNA from crime scenes with DNA from individuals. Criminal record information is held on the Police National Computer (PNC). Also, before the introduction of the ACPO Criminal Record Retention Guidelines in April 2006, police forces deleted PNC records from some of those convicted of lesser offences after five to 10 years. It is not therefore possible to say either how many of those on the NDNAD did not have a conviction when sampled, or do not currently have a conviction. However, information does exist on the current PNC status of those on the NDNAD.

Data obtained from the PNC on 31 March 2008 indicates that 3,832,986 (of the 4,116,713) people had a record retained on the PNC. Of these, 3,259,347 had a conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the PNC.

Information is not collected in respect of the number of those with no conviction whose DNA was found at the scene of a crime. Some research information is, however, available on the number of DNA profiles taken from those arrested but not charged and from those arrested, charged but not convicted of an offence that have resulted in a DNA match, thus providing the police with an intelligence link on the possible identity of the offender and assisting in the detection of crimes. In April 2004, an amendment to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 came into effect, which enabled the police to take and retain DNA and fingerprints from persons who had been arrested for a recordable offence. In the period April 2004 to December 2005, the retention of DNA profiles of arrested persons who had not been charged or proceeded against had resulted in matches with crime scene profiles from over 3,000 offences.

In May 2001, an amendment to PACE came into effect, which enabled the police to retain DNA samples taken from persons who had been charged but not convicted of an offence. In the period May 2001 to December 2005, an estimated 200,000 DNA samples taken from people charged with offences had been retained on the NDNAD, which would previously have had to be removed because of the absence of a conviction. From these, approximately 8,500 profiles of individuals have been linked with crime scene profiles, involving nearly 14,000 offences.

Regarding the number of profiles added to the NDNAD since it was created, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 733W, to the hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis).

Hezbollah

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of co-operation between the political and military wings of Hezbollah in seeking to commit or support acts of terrorism in the UK. [223602]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* The military wing of Hezballah was added to the list of proscribed organisations because it is concerned in terrorism, including by its active support for Shia militants in Iraq and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

No other part of the organisation is proscribed in the UK. It is our policy not to discuss intelligence matters and I am unable to share further details of our assessments of Hezballah than were outlined during the parliamentary debates on the proscription Order.

Homicide: Prostitution

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prostitutes were murdered in each of the last 10 years. [224557]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available data are from the Homicide Index and relate to offences currently recorded as homicides in England and Wales as at 12 November 2007.

Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide where victim was a prostitute[2]: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2006-07[3, 4]

Year recorded[3]	*Number of recorded homicides*
1997-98	4
1998-99	3
1999-2000	1
2000-01	3
2001-02	4
2002-03	9
2003-04	6
2004-05	4
2005-06	6
2006-07	7

1. As at 12 November 2007; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
2. Victim occupation recorded as prostitute or sex worker, but victim was not necessarily killed while working.
3. Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
4. Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 75W, on human trafficking: females, what steps are being taken by the *(a)* Serious Organised Crime Agency and *(b)* United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre to improve the collection of intelligence of human trafficking. [219476]

Jacqui Smith: Operational activity under the organised immigration crime programmes of the UK Serious Organised Crime Control Strategy (developed by SOCA with UK Law Enforcement) includes the collection of information and intelligence on human trafficking, and operations to interdict traffickers and remove those trafficked to safety.

The National Intelligence Requirement sets out the topics on which information and intelligence is sought. It is available on the SOCA website.

The UKHTC continues to develop the understanding of the nature and scale of the problem faced by the United Kingdom and is currently undertaking an analysis of the outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 75W, on human trafficking: females, what the evidential basis is which indicates an increase in human trafficking in recent years; and what estimate her Department has made of the level of increase in human trafficking in the last five years. [219493]

Jacqui Smith: There is no estimate of a level of increase in human trafficking in recent years as the nature of the crime makes it difficult to provide an accurate assessment of the extent of the problem faced. The best assessment of the threat caused by human trafficking is set out in the UK Threat Assessment previously produced by the National Criminal Intelligence Service and now produced by the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Identity and Passport Service: Contracts

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when contractual negotiations between the Identity and Passport Service and *(a)* International Business Machines Corporation UK, *(b)* Electronic Data Systems Corporation UK, *(c)* Computer Sciences Corporation UK and *(d)* Fujitsu Services Limited to deliver the national identity card scheme are expected to be concluded. [223392]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* A number of procurements are being undertaken for capabilities to implement the national identity scheme. Many are being procured using the NIS 'Strategic Supplier Group (SSG)' framework awarded in June 2008 to IBM, EDS, CSC, Fujitsu and Thales. These particular 'SSG' procurements are expected to conclude over the first half of 2009.

Identity and Passport Service: Thales SA

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* duration, *(b)* value and *(c)* terms of remuneration are in the contract agreed between Thales SA and the Identity and Passport Service to deliver the National Identity Register. [223390]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* The duration of this contract is four years with options to extend by up to four six-month periods. The value of the contract is £18 million.

Remuneration is linked to delivery at contract milestones (Design, Build and Test) plus monthly charges for running of services once implemented.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what terms have been provided for early termination of the contract agreed between Thales SA and the Identity and Passport Service to deliver the National Identity Register. [223391]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* Termination provisions include those for ending the contract for poor performance or a decision to terminate early for 'convenience'. In the case of termination for convenience where 12 months notice is given a supplier may recover costs incurred and those associated with terminating the contract. Where less than 12 months notice is given, in addition to costs incurred, anticipated profit lost as a result of the decision to terminate early may be claimed. These provisions are based on Office of Government Commerce best practice guidance for IT contracts.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to implement the Court of Appeal's order to restore the original provisions of the Highly Skilled Migrant (HSMP) visa so that HSMP visa holders are able to apply for indefinite leave to remain visas in the UK after legally being on HSMP visas for four years. [225222]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* The judgment of 8 April 2008 regarding the case brought by the HSMP Forum relates only to the December 2006 immigration rules change in respect of applications for FLR under the HSMP. The April 2006 immigration rules change in respect of settlement was not under consideration and the judgment consequently has no bearing on the length of time people have to spend in certain immigration categories before they can apply for settlement.

Immigration Officers: Training

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the minimum period of training immigration officers are expected to receive in the identification of forged travel documents is. [226057]

Mr. Alan Campbell: All operational UK Border Agency staff receive at least nine hours of forgery training on their induction courses and are tested on their knowledge. In addition to these nine hours dedicated specifically to forgery, the induction courses include significant elements on recognising genuine travel and immigration documents and associated endorsements. This is supplemented by local training once the individuals are in post.

Immigration: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* claims were made against her Department and its agencies and contractors, as a result of alleged injuries and assaults sustained during the enforcement of removals under immigration powers in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) (A) sex, (B) age and (C) nationality of complainant and (ii) location of alleged incident. [225278]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held in this format and could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Police: Firearms

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers carried firearms as a regular part of their duties in each of the last 10 years in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area. [223601]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1361W.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average number of police officers on *(a)* duty and *(b)* patrol in England and Wales in the last period for which figures are available. [224230]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 September 2008]:* We do not have all the information required to answer the question directly. This would require estimates for contracted hours and the proportion worked, taking into account annual leave, sick leave etc.

Time spent on patrol refers only to time when an officer is patrolling but engaged in no other duty. Activity (such as advice to a member of the public) carried out whilst on patrol is recorded separately. The percentage of time spent on patrol needs to considered alongside other activities. We use the front-line policing measure to provide a fuller picture of police activity. The measure assesses time spent by all police officers on core policing duties, such as patrol, responding to 999 calls, as well as activities of CIS and specialist officers. While these officers are not always visible to the public, they are nonetheless carrying out core policing duties.

In 2006-07 13.6 per cent.[1] of officers' time was spent on patrol and 64.2 per cent.[2] was spent on front-line policing duties. There were 141,892 police officers in 2006-07.

[1] Includes only police officers on foot/car/beat patrol, CID and traffic.

[2] Includes all police officers

Police: Stun Guns

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces use the 50,000 volt taser stun gun; and how many times, in each case, the gun has been fired in the last two years for which figures are available. [226010]

Mr. Coaker: In 2004, following a trial in five forces, the then Home Secretary agreed that chief officers of all police forces in England and Wales could make Taser available to authorised firearms officers as a less lethal option for use in situations where a firearms authority had been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms.

The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) announced on 19 July 2007 that authorised police firearms officers in England and Wales would be able to use Taser in a wider set of circumstances. These officers are now able to deploy Taser in operations or incidents where the use of firearms is not authorised, but where they are facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves or the subject.

It was also announced that the deployment of Taser to specially trained police units not composed of firearms officers, for use when facing similar threats of violence, would be trialled in 10 police forces. The 12-month trial commenced on 1 September 2007. The 10 forces are: Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Gwent, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, North Wales and West Yorkshire. The trial is currently being evaluated. The 10 forces have been informed that the Government are content for them to continue to use Taser on the same basis as in the trial pending a conclusion on future use.

The number of incidents of Taser use in England and Wales since its introduction in April 2004, including the number of firings, can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/firearms/taser/

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals serving a sentence in a UK prison refused to provide their personal details, including their country of origin, resulting in their remaining in prison at the end of their sentence in the latest period for which figures are available. [225386]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested can be obtained through the detailed examination of individual case files only at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Committee with the most accurate and robust information available. In her most recent letter of 23 July, she advised the Committee that there are a number of reasons for delay in the deportation process such as last minute legal barriers, obstacles obtaining travel documents and non-compliance.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what conditions are attached to the use of funds allocated to police forces under the assets recovery incentive scheme. [225221]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* There are no formal conditions attached to the use of funds allocated under the asset recovery incentive scheme. Police forces are encouraged to use the funds for further investment in asset recovery and financial investigation, tackling crime and ,where appropriate, on local community initiatives. The Home Office monitors use of incentive monies by police forces and other agencies to ensure propriety. Returns from forces on the use of these funds indicate full compliance with Home Office recommendations.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the statement of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 531, on the Security Industry Authority, whether any members of her Department were prosecuted in relation to the employment of foreign persons without leave to work while residing in the United Kingdom. [221667]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* No member of the Home Office has been prosecuted in connection with the employment of illegal migrant workers in the security industry.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the running costs of *(a)* the Assets Recovery Agency and *(b)* the Serious and Organised Crime Agency were in each year since their inceptions. [219435]

Jacqui Smith: Net expenditure by the Assets Recovery Agency in each year since its inception is as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	11.0
2004-05	14.0
2005-06	16.5
2006-07	13.5
2007-08	17.5

Resource funding for the Serious Organised Crime Agency is as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	391.6
2007-08	406.7

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Secondment

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers from the Serious and Organised Crime Agency have been seconded to partner agencies overseas in each year since its inception. [219425]

Jacqui Smith: The number of SOCA officers working in partner agencies overseas since 2006 is as follows:

	Number
2006	38
2007	43
2008	37

Sexual Offences

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sexual offences were recorded in each crime and disorder reduction partnership in England and Wales in 2007-08. [221495]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 22 July 2008]*: The information requested is available on the Home Office website at the following address:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrptabs1a.xls

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons figures for recorded sexual offences in each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership have not been published in the supplementary tables to the Crime in England and Wales 2007-08 publication. [221517]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 22 July 2008]*: Home Office statisticians are in the process of applying new methods of statistical disclosure control. The data will be released on the Home Office website as soon as this process is completed.

Surveillance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of abuse of intrusive surveillance powers have been made against *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* central Government-controlled bodies in each of the last three years. [225229]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given by the then Minister of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, East (Mr. McNulty), to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1374W.

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has given to the police on the exercise of their power under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 to stop and search those taking photographs in public places. [219421]

Jacqui Smith: Guidance on stop and search powers under section 44 Terrorism Act 2000 was issued by the Home Office in Home Office Circular 038/2004 on 1 July 2004 covering the authorisations for the use of the power.

Operational guidance on the use of section 44 stop and search powers was issued by the National Policing Improvement Agency and the Association of Chief Police Officers in 2006.

Following a commitment given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in October 2007, the operational guidance issued to the police on section 44 is currently being reviewed by the Home Office, the police, community groups and other stakeholders. The National Police Improvement Agency will issue revised guidance to all police forces in November. This will cover the taking of photographs in public places, although the general position is that there is no legal restriction on photography in such places.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Food

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Prime Minister's Office is taking to reduce levels of food waste produced in 10 Downing Street. [225648]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Minister for the Third Sector to the hon. Member for East Surrey (Mr. Ainsworth) on 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1144-45W.

Departmental Computers

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Cabinet Office's policy is on the disposal of hard disks from redundant personal computers. [223963]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the Data Handling Report, the publication of which was announced in the statement made by the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the right hon. Member for Doncaster, North (Edward Miliband) on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 25-6WS. The report and the cross government mandatory minimum measures state the core requirements that Departments must adhere to in relation to the secure disposal of both paper and electronic records. A copy of the cross government mandatory minimum measures has been deposited in the Libraries of the House and is available on the following website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/~/media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/csia/dhr/cross_gov080625%20pdf.ashx

Paragraph 16 of the mandatory minimum measures for Government Departments states that "All material that has been used for protected data should be subject to controlled disposal".

Guidance to Departments on the secure erasure and disposal of different types of magnetic, semi-conductor and optical media is published by CESG, the National Technical Authority for Information Assurance and is available on their website accessible from the Government Secure Intranet.

Government Communications: Higher Civil Servants

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to appoint a new Permanent Secretary for Government Communications. [222606]

Mr. Watson: The post of Permanent Secretary, Government Communications, was advertised in September 2008 under open competition rules.

Infant Mortality

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many notices of death were received by the Registrar General relating to *(a)* babies born after 24 weeks gestation and *(b)* neonatal deaths for each of the last three years, broken down by (i) registration district and (ii) notifying hospital. [224451]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many notices of death were received by the Registrar General relating to (a) babies born after 24 weeks gestation and (b) neonatal deaths for each of the last three years, broken down by (i) registration district and (ii) notifying hospital. (224451)

The Registrar General is notified of all babies born after 24 weeks of gestation with no signs of life at birth (known as stillbirths). It is not possible to provide information on all babies born after 24 weeks gestation as gestational age for live births is not collected by the Registrar General. ONS routinely uses local authority of residence rather than registration district to produce birth and death statistics.

(a)(i) Table 1 shows numbers of stillbirths by local authority of residence of the mother in England and Wales for the aggregated years 2005 to 2007 (the latest year for which data are available). It is not possible to provide numbers of stillbirths for each of these years separately in order to protect the confidentiality of individuals.

(a)(ii) Numbers of stillbirths by hospital (where the still birth occurred) in England and Wales for each of the years from 2005 to 2007 are shown in table 2.

(b)(i) Numbers of neonatal deaths by local authority of residence in England and Wales for each of the years from 2005 to 2007 are shown in table 3.

(b)(ii) Numbers of neonatal deaths by hospital (where the death occurred) in England and Wales for each of the years from 2005 to 2007 are shown in table 4. Copies of these tables have been placed in the library.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Prosecutions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions were brought in all courts in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion were cases with outcomes of *(a)* guilty pleas, *(b)* discontinuances, *(c)* convictions after trial, *(d)* acquittals and *(e)* other. [226406]

The Solicitor-General: The following tables show the number of defendants prosecuted by the CPS whose case was completed in either the magistrates courts or in the crown court in each of the last ten years, together with the outcome of those proceedings. The table also shows the number and proportion of defendants whose case resulted either in conviction (which includes both guilty pleas and convictions after trial) or an unsuccessful outcome (which comprises all outcomes other than a conviction).

These figures represent all cases prosecuted by the 42 Areas of the CPS, but do not include the small volume of more specialised casework handled at CPS headquarters by the casework directorate, figures for which are compiled on a different basis.

Table 1: Magistrates court outcomes

	(a) Guilty pleas[1]		*(b) Discontinuances*[2]		*(c) Convictions after Trial*		*(d) Acquittals*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1998-99	924,761	73.3	186,213	14.8	43,993	3.5	16,744	1.3
1999-2000	942,284	73.6	194,370	15.2	40,163	3.1	16,268	1.3
2000-01	891,406	73.6	193,005	15.9	35,117	2.9	16,005	1.3
2001-02	896,387	73.6	197,799	16.2	33,251	2.7	16,102	1.3
2002-03	938,101	73.9	197,680	15.6	35,834	2.8	16,565	1.3
2003-04	953,282	75.5	175,779	13.9	40,167	3.2	18,294	1.4
2004-05	885,763	76.9	146,268	12.7	42,432	3.7	20,589	1.8
2005-06	843,799	79.1	126,047	11.8	38,038	3.6	20,866	2.0
2006-07	796,922	80.7	107,651	10.9	34,979	3.5	20,091	2.0
2007-08	791,636	81.9	95,513	9.9	36,899	3.8	20,658	2.1

	(e) Other[3]		*Convictions*		*Unsuccessful outcomes*		*Total*
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*
1998-99	89,149	7.1	968,754	76.8	292,106	23.2	1,260,860
1999-2000	86,508	6.8	982,447	76.8	297,146	23.2	1,279,593
2000-01	75,114	6.2	926,523	76.5	284,124	23.5	1,210,647
2001-02	73,842	6.1	929,638	76.4	287,743	23.6	1,217,381
2002-03	81,483	6.4	973,935	76.7	295,228	23.3	1,269,663
2003-04	74,303	5.9	993,449	78.7	268,376	21.3	1,261,825
2004-05	56,852	4.9	928,195	80.6	223,709	19.4	1,151,904
2005-06	38,611	3.6	881,837	82.6	185,524	17.4	1,067,361
2006-07	28,338	2.9	831,901	84.2	156,080	15.8	987,981
2007-08	21,920	2.3	828,535	85.7	138,091	14.3	966,626

Table 2: Crown Court outcomes

	(a) Guilty pleas		*(b) Discontinuances*[2]		*(c) Convictions after trial*		*(d) Acquittals*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1998-99	59,374	66.2	10,369	11.6	10,378	11.6	8,277	9.2
1999-2000	55,407	63.8	11,149	12.8	10,530	12.1	8,319	9.6
2000-01	51,596	62.5	11,537	14.0	9,820	11.9	8,317	10.1
2001-02	51,824	61.5	13,286	15.8	9,925	11.8	7,699	9.1

Table 2: Crown Court outcomes

	(a) Guilty pleas		(b) Discontinuances[2]		(c) Convictions after trial		(d) Acquittals	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2002-03	58,624	62.0	14,671	15.5	11,613	12.3	7,872	8.3
2003-04	59,537	62.5	14,358	15.1	11,255	11.8	7,907	8.3
2004-05	58,222	64.1	13,430	14.8	10,059	11.1	7,544	8.3
2005-06	60,252	67.0	12,389	13.8	8,734	9.7	7,090	7.9
2006-07	60,918	68.1	12,102	13.5	8,200	9.2	7,000	7.8
2007-08	69,242	71.4	12,356	12.7	7,705	7.9	6,459	6.7

	(e) Others[3]		Convictions		Unsuccessful outcomes		Total
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
1998-99	1,246	1.4	69,752	77.8	19,892	22.2	89,644
1999-2000	1,426	1.6	65,937	75.9	20,894	24.1	86,831
2000-01	1,329	1.6	61,416	74.4	21,183	25.6	82,599
2001-02	1,590	1.9	61,749	73.2	22,575	26.8	84,324
2002-03	1,766	1.9	70,237	74.3	24,309	25.7	94,546
2003-04	2,171	2.3	70,792	74.3	24,436	25.7	95,228
2004-05	1,635	1.8	58,281	75.1	22,609	24.9	90,890
2005-06	1,505	1.7	68,986	76.7	20,984	23.3	89,970
2006-07	1,188	1.3	69,118	77.3	20,290	22.7	89,408
2007-08	1,230	1.3	76,947	79.3	20,045	20.7	96,992

[1] Guilty pleas are shown inclusive of cases proved in the absence of the defendant.
[2] Discontinuances comprise all prosecutions dropped before evidence is heard.
[3] Other outcomes comprise administrative finalisations (where the defendant cannot be traced, or has died, or been found unfit to plead) & discharged committals.

Prosecutions: Driving Offences

Tom Brake: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions have been brought for offences related to the use of a mobile telephone whilst driving in each London borough in the latest year for which figures are available. [225968]

The Solicitor-General: These cases are investigated by the Metropolitan Police in London and the police apply for the issue of summonses in cases they decide to prosecute through the courts. These are offences that are specified under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 and as such they are reviewed and presented at court by the police court presentation officers. In the event of a plea of not guilty, or if the defendant fails to attend and evidence is to be called, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) takes over the conduct of proceedings.

The CPS is guided by the Code for Crown Prosecutors, which is issued under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985. The CPS applies the code so that it can make fair and consistent decisions about prosecutions. The reviewing crown prosecutor must be satisfied that there is enough evidence to provide a realistic prospect of a conviction. If the case does not pass that test it will not go ahead. If the case does pass the evidential test the crown prosecutor goes on to consider the second stage test to decide if a prosecution is needed the public interest. The dominant public interest factor that applies in these cases is that of road safety. The crown prosecutor will continue a prosecution when the case has passed both the evidential and the public interest tests.

Public consultation shows how seriously society views the potential dangers of the use of mobile telephones and other hand-held devices, while driving. The CPS has issued a policy for prosecuting cases of bad driving. In cases where the driver was avoidably dangerously distracted by that use, a charge of dangerous driving is the starting point for charging decisions.

The CPS prosecuted a total of 502 offences of using a mobile telephone while driving in the year 2007-08. The data for 2008 show that in the year 2008-09 538 offences were prosecuted up until and including September 2008. The borough breakdown for 2007-08 is as follows:

	Number
Barnet	8
Bexley	4
Brent	17
Bromley and Orpington	28
BTP	3
Camden	9
City of London	46
City of Westminster	26
Croydon	5
Ealing	11
Enfield	7
Greenwich	10
Hackney	4
Hammersmith and Fulham	6
Haringey	10
Harrow	4
Havering	5
Heathrow	1
Hillingdon	3
Hounslow	9
Islington	11
Kingston	9
Lambeth	11
Lewisham	12
Merton	12
Newham	14
Kensington and Chelsea	5
Redbridge	13
Richmond	4
Southwark	9
Sutton	1
Tower Hamlets	8
Waltham Forest	1
Wandsworth	7

	Number
Originating borough not recorded	169

These figures only represent the cases that the CPS took over from the police because the defendant either pleaded not guilty or failed to attend court and evidence was to be called. A greater number will have pleaded guilty either in person or by post. Those cases will have been prosecuted by the police. The CPS figures show that prosecutions for this type of offending is increasing.

CPS London has set up a unit specialising in traffic prosecutions. serves a number of courts across London and one court centre will take cases from a number of boroughs. The unit makes best use of its resources by serving a restricted number of court centres only. It has been a great success in many ways but not least because it manages to bring successful prosecutions in an overwhelming number of cases.

Prosecutions: Shoplifting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions were brought for shoplifting by the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [225877]

The Solicitor-General: While Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records include details of proceedings for theft, they provide no discrete count of offences of shoplifting. The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) has provided the following table of figures derived from the court proceedings database. The figures show the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, and found guilty at all courts, for offences of stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting) in England and Wales during the years 2004 to 2006, the latest period for which figures are available.

A range of responses, proportionate to the circumstances of the case, is available for dealing with offences of shoplifting. An offender may be prosecuted, cautioned, or dealt with by way of a fixed penalty notice. The decision to prosecute is taken in accordance with the code for crown prosecutors. Where a case passes the evidential test set out in the code, a number of public interest factors then weigh in favor of a prosecution. these include: evidence that the offence was premeditated; evidence that the offence was carried out by a group; the defendant's previous convictions or cautions; and any grounds for believing that the offence is likely to be repeated.

Under the Penalty Notice for Disorder scheme a fixed penalty of £80 can be issued for the shoplifting of goods, normally up to the value of £100. The introduction of fixed penalty notices was welcomed by the police as it enabled them to do their job quickly and to return to patrolling the streets, which is what the public wants them to do.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Firefighters

7. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in increasing diversity through the recruitment of firefighters; and if she will make a statement. [226343]

Mr. Khan: The numbers of women and minority ethnic applicants succeeding in the firefighter selection process has shown steady improvement in recent years. Communities and Local Government is working closely with its service partners to further improve performance through the national Equality and Diversity Strategy, which includes recruitment targets.

21. **Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in increasing diversity through recruitment of firefighters. [226358]

Mr. Khan: The number of women and minority ethnic applicants succeeding in the firefighter selection process has shown steady improvement in recent years. Communities and Local Government is working closely with its service partners to further improve performance through the national Equality and Diversity Strategy, which includes recruitment targets.

Green Belt

8. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on building on green belt land when brownfield land is available. [226344]

Margaret Beckett: The Government's policy on building on green belt land is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 (PPG2). PPG2 makes clear that there is a presumption against inappropriate development in the green belt. Such development should not be approved except in very special circumstances.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

9. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the Infrastructure Planning Commission will begin to assess planning applications. [226345]

John Healey: Subject to parliamentary approval for the Planning Bill, we expect the Infrastructure Planning Commission to begin determining applications in 2010.

New Towns

10. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on the future of new towns. [226346]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our policy on new towns is set out in Eco-towns—living a greener future: progress report, published on 24 July. Eco-towns will help us deal with the issues of housing shortage, sustainable living and climate change. We have set tough standards, and more details about these will be published shortly in the draft PPS.

Violent Extremism

11. **Mark Fisher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in engaging young people to make communities more resilient against violent extremism. [226348]

Mr. Khan: We are engaging with young Muslims in many ways. As well as funding a range of projects nationally and locally to help young people become more resilient to violent extremism, last week, we launched the Young Muslims Advisory Group. This group of 22 young Muslims, aged 16 to 25, will advise Government on a variety of issues.

Community Groups

12. **Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on her proposals for the transfer of assets to community groups; and what effect the proposals in the "Communities in control" White Paper will have on this process. [226349]

Hazel Blears: Since May 2007 with CLG support at least 20 assets have already been transferred or are due for transfer in the next 12 months; and £30 million from the Cabinet Office in refurbishment grants will facilitate an additional 35 transfers. Following the White Paper an independent England-wide Asset Transfer Unit will launch in January 2009, and the £70 million Communitybuilders Fund will also invest in further asset transfers.

Fire Service (Havering)

13. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average response time for the fire service in the London borough of Havering was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [226350]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally. However, the London Fire Brigade have provided the following information:

"The average arrival times for fire engines in the London Borough of Havering for 2007-08 (ending March 2008) is 6 minutes and 35 seconds for the first fire engine and 7 minutes and 5 seconds for the second fire engine"

Source:

London Fire Brigade

Home Information Packs

14. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of home information packs on the housing market since their introduction. [226351]

Mr. Iain Wright: Independent research into the impact of home information packs (HIPs) was undertaken by Europe Economics and published on 22 November 2007. The report concluded there was no evidence of any impact on property transactions and prices following the introduction of HIPs. The report also noted a predicted short-term impact of HIPs on new listings, but concluded this would be short lived and the impact on the market would be marginal compared to wider factors. A copy of the report can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/housingmarketanalysis

The Department continues to assess factors affecting the housing market, including the part played by HIPs.

Decent Homes Standard

15. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department plans to take to assist local authorities to ensure that housing meets the decent homes standard. [226352]

Margaret Beckett: Housing policy in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are the responsibilities of the respective Secretaries of State. In England the Government required local authorities owning housing stock to undertake an options appraisal to determine how they would deliver decent homes. Authorities can retain the management and ownership of their housing stock or for authorities who needed extra resources, we provided three delivery options:

setting up an arm's length management organisation;

transferring the ownership of the homes to a registered social landlord; and

entering into a private finance initiative contract.

Local Government Constitution

16. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will seek discussions with relevant Cabinet colleagues on the establishment of a constitution providing for independent local government; and if she will make a statement. [226353]

John Healey: In the context of the United Kingdom's constitutional arrangements there is recognition of local government, as demonstrated by our ratifying on 24 April 1998, the European Charter of Local Self Government whereby the United Kingdom is committed to the principle of local self government.

Port of Liverpool

17. **Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has conducted an economic impact assessment on the decision to levy retrospective business rates on businesses in the port of Liverpool. [226354]

John Healey: The regulatory changes that changed the rating of statutory ports from a prescribed formula to a conventional basis did not change the law regarding what properties should or should not be separately assessed, under which the present action is being taken.

We are looking at the position of ports and the businesses that operate within them, following the end of the use of the prescribed formula.

Eco-towns

18. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in identifying suitable sites for proposed eco-towns. [226355]

Margaret Beckett: In April we announced the shortlist of locations for consultation in "Eco-towns - living a greener future". We received a good response to the first stage consultation and we will shortly publish the draft

planning policy statement and sustainability appraisal for consultation. These will set out more details about the locations.

Affordable Housing

19. **Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to improve the provision of affordable housing in the north-west. [226356]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have recently approved a new regional spatial strategy for the North West. This requires local authorities to undertake strategic housing market assessments in order to assess the need for affordable housing within their area and carry this forward in their local development frameworks.

The Government have also announced six new growth points within the North West. Local authorities are currently working up programmes of development for these growth points in which we expect the issue of affordability to be addressed.

22. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made against the Government's targets for the provision of affordable housing in the last two years; and if she will make a statement. [226359]

Margaret Beckett: For the Spending Review 2004, covering 2005-06 to 2007-08, we were set a target to deliver 75,000 social rented homes over the three-year time span. Provisional figures indicate that we have met this target.

Regeneration

20. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department plans to take to unlock the talent of communities through regeneration. [226357]

Hazel Blears: We are enabling people to make the most of their potential and tackle the barriers that communities face through regeneration. Our new regeneration framework reinforces the importance of connecting deprived areas to opportunity and involving residents in decisions about regeneration priorities.

We are investing over £1.5 billion in the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and over £100 million via the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative. Both are focused on the most deprived areas—supporting local innovative approaches to help residents to get into and get on in the labour market; and helping potential entrepreneurs to start up new businesses. Our White Paper "Communities in control: real people, real power" marks an important step in the transfer of power, changing the culture in public services and the terms of the debate. In particular, it sets out:

A requirement for councils to respond to all local petitions;

A new duty to promote democracy to put local authorities at the heart of connecting people with public decisions; and

A new £70 million community builders fund to support community organisations across England to acquire and run community buildings, provide local services and become more financially self sustainable.

2012 Olympic Games

23. **Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Mayor of London on the potential contribution of the legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games to regeneration in London. [226360]

Hazel Blears: I have met the London Mayor on two occasions to discuss the potential contribution of legacy from the 2012 Olympic Games to regeneration in London. Firstly, at a bi-lateral meeting on 3 September at my offices. Secondly, at the Olympic Park Regeneration Steering Group (OPRSG) at City Hall on 8 October. The Mayor chairs OPRSG, a group which includes the Leaders and Mayors of the five host boroughs, the Minister for London and the Olympics and the Minister for Housing, and reports to the Olympic Board on legacy issues.

Architects Registration Board

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many people were employed by the Architects Registration Board in each year since its establishment; [226649]

(2) what the percentage change in fees for examination by the Architects Registration Board or its committee under section 4(2) for equivalence to a prescribed qualification is between those established for 2008 and those to be charged in 2009; [226329]

(3) what the annual running costs of the Architects Registration Board were in each year since its establishment in 2007-08 prices; [226650]

(4) what the expected cost is of the ongoing refurbishment of the headquarters of the Architects Registration Board. [226651]

Mr. Iain Wright: These are operational matters for the Architects Registration Board. I have asked the registrar and chief executive of the Architects Registration Board to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Karen Holmes dated 13 October 2008:

I am writing in response to your recent questions to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. I have listed the answers to each question in turn.

1. What is the percentage increase in fees for examination by the Architects Registration Board or its Committee under Section 4(2) for equivalence to a prescribed qualifications between those established for 2008 and those to be charged in 2009?

The percentage increase on the 2008 fee is 14.88%. The Board's policy regarding the examination fee is that it should be self-financing, that is, it should not be subsidised by architects. The fee has been held at the same level since 2007 and is being increased for 2009 solely as a result of increased costs in its operation.

2. What were the annual running costs of the Architects Registration Board in each year since its establishment in 2007/2008?

We have calculated the figures you requested using the appropriate year's Retail Price Index, excluding mortgage payments. Please note that the figures for 2008 are not yet available, but will be published in due course. Information about the Board and its work is in its 2007 annual report, and I am pleased to enclose a copy for you. It is also published on our website, www.arb.org.uk.

	Actual total expenditure	Total expenditure at 2008 prices
1997	1,063,631	1,413,644
1998	1,275,754	1,652,284
1999	1,381,077	1,748,412
2000	1,919,389	2,380,638
2001	1,846,946	2,242,643
2002	2,091,080	2,483,979
2003	2,101,532	2,428,437
2004	2,402,757	2,716,160
2005	2,421,404	2,676,153
2006	2,448,498	2,629,260
2007	2,582,066	2,686,630

3. What is the expected cost of the ongoing refurbishment of the headquarters of the Architects Registration Board?

The Board recently agreed a budget allocation for 2009 of £350,000, excluding professional fees, to refurbish its offices. The Board's landlords commenced negotiations with the Board in 2004 as they wished to extend their Weymouth Street premises. The Board used this opportunity to negotiate a more flexible and modern lease, as the previous lease was particularly onerous in terms of length.

A significant advantage of the additional space secured as part of the negotiations will be for the Board to hold its public Board meetings in-house rather than having to use external premises. The Board has also welcomed the opportunity to deliver compliance with regard to its responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Part of the refurbishment plan will be both to install a disabled lift access to the main reception area and compliant toilet facilities, along with additional assistance for people with hearing impairments. Although an overall budget allocation of £350,000 has been made, the project is at an early stage with the final specification and tender document yet to be agreed. The Board is very conscious of its obligations to be prudent and economical and will ensure that the project not only delivers the Board's objectives, but also offers value for money.

4. How many people have been employed by the Architects Registration Board in each year since its establishment?

The details are as follows.

	Staff employed
1997	16
1998	16
1999	17
2000	17
2001	17
2002	17
2003	18
2004	18
2005	18
2006	18
2007	19
2008	19

The increase to the Board's staff resources has been necessary for the Board to continue to deliver its statutory functions. More information about the Board's increased workload is in the 2007 annual report.

I hope the information I have set out in this letter has been of assistance, and has helped to address any concerns you may have had. I do know that both the Board's Chairman, Michael Starling, and Registrar, Alison Carr, would be very pleased to meet you to discuss the Board and its work in more detail. Please let me know if you would like to accept this offer to meet, so that we can arrange a date that is convenient for you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what types of development she has considered exempting from the requirement to pay the proposed community infrastructure levy; [226617]

(2) when she plans to publish the categories of development to be exempt from paying the community infrastructure levy; [226618]

(3) whether she will make it her policy that developments that promote sport or physical activity be exempt from paying the community infrastructure levy. [226619]

Mr. Iain Wright: As my right hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government stated when the Planning Bill was in Commons Committee, our principal starting point is that almost all developments will have some imposition and impact on the need for infrastructure, and some call on local services or amenities. In addition, exemptions to, or reductions from, CIL may cause complexity and distortion and reduce fairness. Therefore, the Government envisage that most types of development will be liable to pay CIL.

The Government will however consider the case for exemptions when consulting on the regulations to implement CIL, and will set out the exemptions available in the final regulations. Any exemptions we create must be legally robust and based on coherent criteria, such as those set out at page 60 of the CIL policy document published in August.

Our document is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/communityinfrastructurelevy.pdf

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether developments in receipt of funding from the community infrastructure levy will be exempt from paying the levy charge. [226620]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) clauses in the Planning Bill, now in the other place, stipulate that CIL funding may be applied only to infrastructure that supports the development of an area. Infrastructure in itself has other impacts on infrastructure. For instance, a power station might place new burdens on the local road network. Therefore, the Government do not consider it right to provide an automatic exemption from paying CIL for developments that have been in receipt of CIL funding.

This is not to say that there will be no exemptions from CIL. The Government will consider the case for exemptions when consulting on regulations, and as we made clear in the CIL policy document published on 5 August, any exemptions from CIL will be decided on the basis of the criteria set out at page 60 of our publication, available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/communityinfrastructurelevy.pdf

Council Housing: Immigrants

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* non-UK EU

national-headed households and *(b)* A8 national-headed households in social housing in (i) the most recent period for which figures are available and (ii) each year since such figures became available; and what proportion this represented of housing stock in each year; [226933]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of foreign national-headed households in social housing in *(a)* the most recent period for which figures are available and *(b)* each year since such figures became available; and what proportion this represented of housing stock in each year; [226934]

(3) how many foreign nationals obtained a tenancy without holding an existing social housing tenancy in the most recent year for which figures are available; [226935]

(4) how many new *(a)* local authority social lettings and *(b)* registered social landlord lettings were made to foreign nationals from (i) EU member states and (ii) non-EU states in the most recent year for which figures are available. [226936]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest results from the Survey of English Housing, based on the period 2005-06 to 2006-07, are that there were an estimated 310,000 social tenants in England who were foreign nationals—8 per cent. of all social tenants. This question on nationality was introduced for the first time in 2005-06.

The Survey of English Housing doesn't identify the nationalities of householders to a level that can identify non-UK EU nationals or A8 nationals. However, results from the new English Housing Survey that started in April 2008 (replacing the Survey of English Housing) will capture more detailed information about the nationality of householders.

Information on the number of foreign national households allocated social housing is collected in the Continuous Recording of Letting form (CORE). For this information, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1798W.

Council Housing: Sales

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority-owned homes were sold on the private market in each of the last 10 years, broken down by size of dwelling. [226567]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not collected centrally.

Council Tax

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to make a decision on whether to introduce legislation to allow council tax payments to be taken from bank accounts. [225565]

John Healey: It is already legal for billing authorities to deduct council tax payments from bank accounts by direct debit with the consent of the account holder.

County Councils: Marketing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to collect statistics on how much each *(a)* county council and *(b)* borough council spends on communication and marketing. [224624]

John Healey: This information is not collected centrally and we have no plans to do so.

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of her Department. [226518]

Mr. Khan: My Department's advertising campaigns are routinely assessed for cost effectiveness and the results for the financial year 2007-08 were published in the Department's annual report. The Department's recruitment advertising is assessed by the quality, appropriateness and number of applicants applying for publicly advertised posts.

Derelict Land

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans English Partnerships has to develop former coalfield sites in the next two years. [224582]

Mr. Iain Wright: English Partnerships is responsible for the management of the national coalfields programme (NCP) working with the regional development agencies and local authority partners. The NCP aims to remediate and bring back into use 107 former coalfield sites.

The NCP is a key contributor to English Partnerships' overall output targets and its ambition to deliver lasting outcomes and improvements in the former coalfield communities. The programme therefore remains a priority for English Partnerships with the momentum and integrity of the programme continuing as English Partnerships moves into the new Homes and Communities Agency from 1 December.

The National Coalfields Programme is ringfenced, with capital receipts being recycled into future projects. The level of activity over the next two years will therefore be influenced to some extent by the level of receipts returning to the programme and market conditions are currently challenging. Even so, the programme remains on track to substantially complete all significant investments in strategically important sites delivering housing, employment and clear community benefits by 2012, with a longer timescale for sites with potential for public open space. Up to £432 million of investment is forecast to be delivered during the remaining lifetime of the programme.

Empty Property

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of empty homes in each region, broken down by *(a)* size and *(b)* type of dwelling. [226462]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on empty dwellings by size and type of dwelling is not held centrally. The following table shows the number of long term empty dwellings and total empty dwellings in each region as at October 2007.

Region	*Number of long term empty dwellings (empty for more than six months)*	*Total number of empty dwellings*
North East	21,583	48,066
North West	73,047	141,060
Yorkshire and the Humber	40,084	101,035
East Midlands	27,306	69,805
West Midlands	34,833	80,359
East	24,704	69,072
London	36,534	84,596
South East	34,226	101,761
South West	21,732	66,881
England	314,049	762,635

Source:
Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTBI and CTBIS) returns from local authorities

Those dwellings vacant for less than six months are more likely to be empty for a short period following a sale and are seen as 'transactional' vacant dwellings and are thus a characteristic of the housing market.

Empty Property: Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effects of changes in empty property business rates on the property market. [226340]

John Healey: We published an impact assessment of the empty property reforms in May 2007 alongside the primary legislation. On 26 February this year, I laid a further assessment before the House, alongside the regulations.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made against the Government's target to build three million homes by 2020; and what proportion of those three million homes she expects to be built in the next two years. [225450]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2006-07 199,200 additional homes were delivered.

The Government do not publish forecasts for private house building. Housing starts in 2007-08 were 10 per cent. lower than in 2006-07 and this is likely to be reflected in lower levels of housing completions during 2008-09.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effects of current trends in the housing market on the delivery of Government targets on affordable housing. [226271]

Mr. Iain Wright: We remain committed to the long-term delivery of affordable housing. It remains too early, given current market conditions to predict outputs in the short terms.

We recently announced on 2 September 2008, our market rescue package to increase confidence, stability and fairness in the housing market, building on previous announcements in May and July. As part of this package we will be supporting up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable homeowners facing repossession to remain in their home; offering up to 10,000 first-time buyers currently frozen out of the mortgage market a chance to get onto the property ladder through new shared equity schemes; and bringing forward £400 million to deliver up to 5,500 new social homes over the next 18 months.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the provision of affordable housing in rural areas. [226272]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation has been set a national target to provide 10,300 affordable homes in smaller rural communities from 2008-09 to 2010-11. Grant will be allocated to those schemes which meet the needs of local people, the regional strategy and demonstrate strong value for money from the £8.4 billion National Affordable Housing Programme.

The Prime Minister commissioned a report from the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor) who has been looking at how land use and planning can better support rural business and deliver affordable housing in rural communities. His report, published in July, provides a comprehensive review of the issues that our rural communities face, and provides a number of practical recommendations. We are looking at the report in detail and will publish a full response later this year.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of *(a)* the cost of providing a social rented unit and *(b)* the average public subsidy in the form of grant for such a unit in the most recent period for which figures are available. [226932]

Mr. Iain Wright: Through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme for 2007-08 the average total scheme cost was £150,200 for a social rented unit which includes the cost of purchasing land, building materials etc. The average public subsidy was £65,500 for social rented units of which £59,700 was social housing grant.

Housing: Overcrowding

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of households living in overcrowded conditions in each region in each of the last 10 years. [226461]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table contains estimates of the numbers of overcrowded households in each region from 1997-98 to 2006-07. Levels of overcrowding are measured through the Survey of English Housing and assessed against the "bedroom standard". Due to small sample sizes, a three year moving average is used.

Overcrowded households by region, 1997-98 to 2006-07, three year moving average

Thousands of households

Government office region	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North East	21	19	20	19	18	18	19	21	19	19
North West	74	72	65	63	62	60	53	55	58	64
Yorkshire and the Humber	46	48	46	40	41	39	39	35	30	37
North	141	139	131	123	121	117	110	111	107	120
East Midlands	32	26	26	30	30	31	27	30	27	29
West Midlands	51	55	54	52	51	52	52	57	58	61
Midlands	83	81	80	82	81	83	79	87	85	90
London	156	159	161	166	171	178	181	194	203	203
East	33	35	37	38	38	35	32	31	36	42
South East	58	54	54	56	59	58	56	57	61	66
South West	25	30	33	38	33	31	28	31	33	33
Rest of South	116	119	125	132	131	124	117	119	131	141
England	495	498	497	503	503	502	487	511	526	554

Note:
A three year moving average is used due to small sample sizes. For example, the figure shown for '1997-98' is the average over the three survey years '1995-96', '1996-97' and '1997-98'.
Source:
Survey of English Housing

Housing: Owner Occupation

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average rate of home ownership is in England; what the rate is among those from ethnic minority groups; and if she will make a statement. [225907]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is estimated that 70 per cent. of households in England in 2007 were owner occupiers. Among ethnic minority groups, 50 per cent. of households were owner occupiers. These estimates are based on ONS Labour Force Survey data.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding is to be provided to home improvement agencies under the Supporting People budget in the next 12 months. [226663]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are not able to say how much Supporting People funding will be provided to Home Improvement Agencies under the Supporting People budget in the next 12 months. The Supporting People programme is delivered at a local level and decisions on how much money is spent on services, including Home Improvement Agencies, are made by the top tier local authorities, based on local priorities and need. The 2008-09 allocations for Supporting People amount to £1.686 billion. We do know that, together, the top tier authorities spent £12,768,942 on Home Improvement Agencies in 2005-06, increasing to £15,413,865 in 2006-07 (2007-08 data is not yet available).

Housing: Standards

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will consider the merits of re-introducing Parker-Morris standards for new housing. [224722]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's delivery bodies, the Housing Corporation (HC) and English Partnerships (EP) are already engaged in this issue. They have taken a lead in setting benchmarks for high quality urban design, construction and environmental sustainability. It is important that they understand the issues around residential living space, to help build on existing good practice and explore innovative ideas. The Homes and Communities Agency will consider how to take this forward.

'Parker Morris' standards were appropriate for the housing needs of the time. A partnership of industry bodies have been working together to examine the issue. Currently these partners, including the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), EP, HC and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIB A) are sharing information and undertaking research to understand if there is a legitimate issue concerning size of new build open market units. It is important that an evidence base is established before conclusions can be drawn on whether there is a problem and whether this is a matter for public policy intervention.

Local Authorities: Housing

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have been permitted to introduce selective licensing schemes under the Housing Act 2004; how many applications have yet to be approved; how many have been refused; and if she will make a statement. [225300]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following local authorities have been granted approval to operate selective licensing schemes under the Housing Act 2004.

Salford city council;

Middlesbrough borough council;

Manchester city council;

Gateshead borough council;
Sedgefield borough council;
Burnley borough council; and
Bolton borough council.

The Department is currently considering applications from Blackburn with Darwen borough council, Leeds city council,. Easington district council and Hartlepool borough council. We invite local authorities to work with CLG officials in the development of their proposals so that the applications when submitted are consistent with published criteria. This has meant that the Secretary of State has not refused any applications.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to assist local authorities with deposits in Landsbanki. [226999]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement 'Impact on local authority finances of Icelandic bank failures' made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government today.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assistance her Department is giving to those local authorities that have deposited funds with Icelandic banks; [227060]

(2) what role her Department is playing in providing help and support to those local authorities that have invested in Icelandic banks. [227062]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement 'Impact on local authority finances of Icelandic bank failures' made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government today.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have invested in Icelandic banks. [227061]

John Healey: The LGA is now completing its urgent analysis of the situation for individual local authorities that may have had investments in Icelandic banks. I will be meeting with the LGA again this week to discuss the issues arising on a case by case basis.

I also refer the hon. Member to the written statement, 'Impact on local authority finances of Icelandic bank failures', made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government today.

Local Government Finance: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the Bassetlaw Council's expenditure of local government business growth initiative money on job evaluation. [226773]

John Healey: The grant that has been paid to authorities under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme is non-ringfenced—which means it is for local authorities themselves to decide how that money is spent.

Local Government: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what options are available to Bassetlaw residents seeking the introduction of a unitary local government authority in their area; and if she will make a statement. [224926]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 583W.

Mortgages: North Lanarkshire

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many mortgage applications relating to the purchase of property in Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency were approved in each of the last 24 months. [225960]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not hold these figures. The Bank of England publishes national data on mortgage approvals, which are available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/statistics.htm.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether responses to the South East Plan consultation sent to her Department, rather than the Government Office for the South East, will be considered as part of the South East Plan consultation process. [227125]

Mr. Khan: All consultation responses should be sent to the Government office for the south-east (GOSE) by 24 October. Any responses received by the Department for Communities and Local Government will be passed on to GOSE.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses to the South East Plan consultation have been received by *(a)* the Government Office for the South East and *(b)* her Department. [227126]

Mr. Khan: All consultation responses should be sent to the Government office for the south-east (GOSE) by 24 October. Any responses received by the Department for Communities and Local Government will be passed on to GOSE.

As the consultation period is still running it is not possible to give a precise answer to this question, as comments are still being logged. However, GOSE estimate that around 2,000 responses had been received by 13 October.

Social Rented Housing: Sales

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many right to buy sales of council and social housing there were in each month of the last two years; and what revenue was generated in each month. [225552]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table sets out sales of local authority and registered social landlord (RSL) properties under the right to buy and preserved right to buy schemes between April 2006 and March 2008, and the receipts arising from those sales in the same period. These figures are presented by quarter for local authorities, and annually for RSLs, rather than monthly, as this is the basis on which Communities and Local Government collects this information. Figures are based on returns made to the Department by local authorities and to the Housing Corporation from RSLs.

Quarter	Number of RTB sales of dwellings by local authorities	Total receipts arising from LA RTB sales (£m)	Number of RTB and preserved RTB sales of dwellings by registered social landlords	Total receipts arising from RSL RTB and preserved RTB sales (£m)
April to June 2006	4,480	287.1	[1]4,840	[2]259.6
July to September 2006	4,280	277.9	[1]—	[2]—
October to December 2006	4,810	314.2	[1]—	[2]—
January to March 2007	3,330	266.2	[1]—	[2]—
April to June 2007	3,520	265.9	[3]3,150	[4]197.3
July to September 2007	3,360	267.6	[3]—	[4]—
October to December 2007	3,050	237.8	[3]—	[4]—
January to March 2008	2,030	162.7	[3]—	[4]—

Figures for local authority (LA) sales and sales receipts are from PIB quarterly returns from local authorities to CLG.

Figures for registered social landlord (RSL) sales are from RSR (regulatory and statistical return) annual returns from RSLs to the Housing Corporation. Figures for sales receipts are from CORE (continuous recording) returns from RSLs to the Housing Corporation.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to reply to Question 167261, on insurance of flood-damaged property, tabled on 19 November 2007. [227131]

Mr. Khan: The hon. Member's question was transferred to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and answered by my hon. Friend the then Environment Minister, the hon. Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas) on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 316W.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academies use their powers to select up to 10 per cent. of their intake by aptitude; and if he will make a statement. [225068]

Jim Knight: Of the 130 open academies there are 21 who can select up to 10 per cent. of their intake by aptitude. They are as follows:

The Business Academy, Bexley
The City Academy, Bristol
Capital City Academy, Brent
The Academy at Peckham, Southwark
City of London Academy, Southwark
Djanogly City Academy, Nottingham
Dixons City Academy, Bradford
Macmillan Academy, Middlesbrough
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy, Lewisham
Haberdashers' Knights Academy, Lewisham
Harefield Academy, Hillingdon
The John Madejski Academy, Reading
Ashcroft Technology Academy, Wandsworth
William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester
The Belvedere Academy, Liverpool
Harris City Academy, Crystal Palace, Croydon
John Cabot Academy, South Gloucestershire
Wren Academy, Barnet
The Priory LSST Academy, Lincoln
Colston's Girls' School, Bristol
Bristol Choir Academy, Bristol

Alderman Blaxill School Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the names are of *(a)* representatives of his Department, *(b)* representatives of Essex county council and *(c)* others who accompanied the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Schools and Learners) on his recent visit to the Alderman Blaxill School in Colchester. [226216]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: When my predecessor, Lord Adonis, visited Alderman Blaxill School in Colchester in September 2008 he was accompanied by Peter Clough, a departmental official.

The Essex county council representatives who were present were Lord Hanningfield, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Schools; Brandon Hallam, Chief Executive of the Policy and International Unit; Terry Reynolds: Director for Learning; and Rosemary Prince, Secondary Area Improvement Manager.

A member of Lord Adonis' private office was also present during the visit.

Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how the taper for the funding of family intervention projects between 2008 and 2011 will operate; and if he will place a copy of the evaluations of the projects in the Library; [194268]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 194268, on family intervention projects, tabled on 11th March 2008. [222804]

Beverley Hughes: According to our records a response was sent to the hon. Member on 27 March.

The Secretary of State announced on 5 October 2007 that the Department for Children, Schools and Families would provide up to £18 million ongoing funding for the Family Intervention Projects. The projects will receive tapered funding over 2008 to 2011 to help them move towards securing mainstream funding. In each of these three years projects will receive 70 per cent. of their previous years funding allocation. The final report from the Family Intervention Project evaluation was published in July 2008 and has been placed in the Libraries.

Building Schools for the Future

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools among the 500 lowest performing primary schools have received funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme in the last five years. [225512]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future is aimed at secondary schools. It follows that no primary schools have received funding from this programme in the last five years. However we are taking a similarly transformational approach to capital investment for the primary sector through the Primary Capital Programme. Funding for the pathfinder phase commenced in April this year and will be rolled out to all local authorities from 2009-10. Subject to future Government spending decisions, the programme commits to renewing at least half of all primary school building by 2022-23, creating "primary schools that are equipped for 21st century learning, at the heart of their communities, with children's services in reach of every family". The programme is supported by £1.9 billion of new capital investment over the three-year period 2008-09 to 2010-11. To access that funding local authorities must develop and agree with the Department a Primary Strategy for Change.

Canvey Island Secondary School: Playing Fields

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will hold discussions with Essex county council on the proposed selling of playing fields at Canvey Island secondary school; and if he will make a statement. [225268]

Jim Knight: There are three secondary schools on Canvey Island—The Cornelius Vermuyden school and Arts college, Furtherwick Park school, and Castle View school. Essex county council has advised the Department that they are unaware of any proposals to dispose of school playing fields.

Children: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children in care were working towards *(a)* level 1, *(b)* level 2, *(c)* level 3 and *(d)* level 4 in key stage 1 tests in (i) writing, (ii) reading, (iii) literacy, (iv) speaking and listening and (v) science in each of the last five years. [225843]

Beverley Hughes: The number and percentage of looked after children achieving at least level 2 in reading, writing and mathematics in the Key Stage 1 tests for 2005, 2006 and 2007 can be found in table B of the "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" Statistical First Release accessible via the link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml.

The number and percentage of looked after children achieving at least level 2 in reading, writing and mathematics in the Key Stage 1 tests for 2003 and 2004 can be found in table B of the "Outcome Indicators for Looked-after Children, Twelve months to 30 September 2005—England" Statistical First Release accessible via the link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000651/index.shtml.

Due to a revised assessment-procedure figures prior to 2005 are not directly comparable with later years.

Through Care Matters and measures contained in the Children and Young Persons Bill, the Government are taking steps to improve the educational achievement of looked after children. These include putting the Designated Teacher role on a statutory footing and piloting the role of the Virtual School Head in championing the educational outcomes of looked after children.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons a pupil may be working at the level of assessment for but unable to take key stage 2 tests. [225844]

Jim Knight: The national curriculum tests have been designed to ensure that the vast majority of pupils working at the level of the tests can access them. However there may be a small number of pupils who require additional arrangements to access the tests. Arrangements can be made to adjust test conditions to enable fair and equal access to the tests for these pupils.

There are many reasons why a pupil may require access arrangements. Access arrangements would be appropriate for pupils whose learning difficulty or disability significantly affects their ability to access the tests; pupils who are unable to sit and work at a test for a sustained period because of a disability or because of behavioural, emotional or social difficulties; and pupils for whom English is an additional language and who have limited fluency in English.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what average number of GCSEs was taken by pupils in maintained schools in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area; [226029]

(2) how many GCSEs were taken on average by children eligible for free school meals in maintained schools in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority. [226030]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table for 2006-07, the other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Non-FSM	FSM	All pupils
Camden	8.9	8.5	8.7
Greenwich	9.0	8.1	8.8
Hackney	8.8	8.1	8.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	9.5	9.5	9.5
Islington	8.5	8.6	8.5
Kensington and Chelsea	9.0	8.8	8.9
Lambeth	9.3	8.2	8.9
Lewisham	9.5	8.8	9.3
Southwark	9.0	8.4	8.7
Tower Hamlets	10.2	10.0	10.1
Wandsworth	9.2	8.3	8.9
Westminster	8.7	8.2	8.6
Barking and Dagenham	10.0	9.3	9.8
Barnet	9.4	8.5	9.2
Bexley	9.7	8.5	9.6
Brent	9.5	8.7	9.3
Bromley	9.5	8.3	9.4
Croydon	9.3	8.2	9.1
Ealing	9.6	8.7	9.4
Enfield	9.0	8.1	8.9
Haringey	8.6	7.5	8.2
Harrow	9.7	8.7	9.5
Havering	9.8	8.1	9.6
Hillingdon	9.1	7.3	8.7
Hounslow	9.3	8.6	9.2
Kingston upon Thames	9.2	8.4	9.1
Merton	8.6	7.4	8.4
Newham	9.4	9.0	9.2
Redbridge	10.1	9.5	10.0
Richmond upon Thames	9.1	7.8	8.9
Sutton	9.5	7.7	9.4
Waltham Forest	9.6	9.1	9.5
Birmingham	9.5	8.5	9.2
Coventry	9.0	6.8	8.7
Dudley	9.2	7.6	9.0
Sandwell	9.1	8.3	9.0
Solihull	9.7	8.5	9.6
Walsall	9.0	6.9	8.6
Wolverhampton	9.7	8.8	9.5
Knowsley	8.5	6.8	7.9
Liverpool	9.3	7.7	8.8
St. Helens	9.9	7.7	9.5
Sefton	9.4	8.0	9.2
Wirral	9.4	7.8	9.0
Bolton	8.9	7.5	8.6
Bury	8.9	8.1	8.8
Manchester	8.9	7.4	8.3
Oldham	8.9	7.5	8.6
Rochdale	9.5	8.0	9.2
Salford	9.1	7.7	8.8
Stockport	8.7	6.9	8.5
Tameside	8.8	7.3	8.6
Trafford	9.6	8.3	9.5
Wigan	9.1	7.5	8.9
Barnsley	8.5	6.7	8.2
Doncaster	9.5	7.7	9.2
Rotherham	8.8	6.8	8.5
Sheffield	8.7	6.7	8.4
Bradford	8.6	7.3	8.3
Calderdale	9.2	7.2	9.0
Kirklees	8.9	7.3	8.7

	Non-FSM	FSM	All pupils
Leeds	8.7	6.6	8.3
Wakefield	9.5	7.7	9.3
Gateshead	9.8	8.0	9.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	8.8	7.2	8.5
North Tyneside	9.5	8.0	9.3
South Tyneside	9.6	7.8	9.2
Sunderland	9.4	8.0	9.3
Isles of Scilly	10.4	-	10.4
Bath and North East Somerset	9.5	7.3	9.3
Bristol, City of	8.3	7.1	8.1
North Somerset	9.0	7.5	8.9
South Gloucestershire	9.3	7.3	9.2
Hartlepool	9.3	7.6	9.0
Middlesbrough	9.0	7.1	8.4
Redcar and Cleveland	9.2	7.5	8.9
Stockton-on-Tees	9.9	7.4	9.5
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	8.8	7.3	8.6
East Riding of Yorkshire	9.4	7.5	9.2
North East Lincolnshire	8.8	7.3	8.6
North Lincolnshire	9.2	7.3	9.0
North Yorkshire	9.0	7.0	8.9
York	9.3	8.2	9.2
Bedfordshire	8.9	7.1	8.7
Luton	9.1	8.2	8.9
Buckinghamshire	9.8	8.6	9.8
Milton Keynes	9.5	7.1	9.3
Derbyshire	9.0	7.7	8.9
Derby	9.1	8.1	9.0
Dorset	9.5	7.9	9.4
Poole	9.3	6.9	9.3
Bournemouth	9.0	6.7	8.8
Durham	9.5	7.3	9.1
Darlington	8.8	6.5	8.5
East Sussex	8.9	7.3	8.7
Brighton and Hove	9.8	7.1	9.4
Hampshire	9.3	7.3	9.2
Portsmouth	9.8	9.2	9.7
Southampton	8.7	7.3	8.6
Leicestershire	9.3	7.7	9.2
Leicester	8.7	7.7	8.5
Rutland	8.8	7.5	8.8
Staffordshire	9.2	7.9	9.1
Stoke-on-Trent	8.7	7.5	8.5
Wiltshire	9.1	7.2	9.0
Swindon	8.8	7.1	8.6
Bracknell Forest	9.2	8.0	9.1
Windsor and Maidenhead	9.3	6.8	9.2
West Berkshire	9.4	7.6	9.3
Reading	8.0	5.5	7.7
Slough	9.6	8.6	9.4
Wokingham	9.3	7.6	9.2
Cambridgeshire	9.2	7.6	9.1
Peterborough	9.3	8.2	9.1
Cheshire	9.0	7.4	8.9
Halton	9.6	8.0	9.3
Warrington	9.1	7.3	9.0
Devon	9.1	7.7	9.0

	Non-FSM	FSM	All pupils
Plymouth	8.5	7.0	8.3
Torbay	9.0	7.2	8.8
Essex	9.4	7.8	9.3
Southend-on-Sea	9.9	7.7	9.7
Thurrock	9.4	7.4	9.1
Herefordshire	8.9	6.7	8.8
Worcestershire	9.2	6.9	9.1
Kent	9.4	7.6	9.3
Medway	9.2	7.8	9.1
Lancashire	9.2	7.8	9.0
Blackburn with Darwen	9.4	8.3	9.1
Blackpool	7.8	6.7	7.6
Nottinghamshire	9.0	7.0	8.8
Nottingham	8.7	6.8	8.2
Shropshire	9.4	8.1	9.3
Telford and Wrekin	9.9	8.4	9.6
Cornwall	9.2	7.9	9.1
Cumbria	9.0	6.8	8.8
Gloucestershire	9.3	7.1	9.1
Hertfordshire	9.4	8.2	9.3
Isle of Wight	9.1	8.3	9.0
Lincolnshire	9.3[3]	7.0	9.2
Norfolk	9.0	7.1	8.8
Northamptonshire	9.2	7.2	9.1
Northumberland	9.2	7.7	9.1
Oxfordshire	9.3	7.5	9.1
Somerset	9.5	7.6	9.3
Suffolk	9.2	7.8	9.1
Surrey	9.5	7.9	9.4
Warwickshire	9.4	7.7	9.3
West Sussex	9.2	7.0	9.1
England Average (maintained sector)	9.2	7.8	9.0

Figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in all maintained schools.

Children: Databases

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families members of which professions will have access to the ContactPoint database. [225830]

Beverley Hughes: The purpose of ContactPoint is to support practitioners in fulfilling their duties under section 10 (duty to co-operate to improve well-being), and section 11 (safeguarding and promoting welfare of children) of the Children Act 2004, section 175 of the Education Act 2002 (duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children), and the local authority duties established by section 436A of the Education Act 1996 (to identify children not receiving education).

Regulation 9(2) of the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007 provides that such access to ContactPoint may only be granted, in line with this purpose, by a local authority to the persons specified in schedule 3 (listed at annex A). Regulation 9(3) provides that such access to ContactPoint may only be granted, in line with the same purpose, by a 'national partner' (listed at annex B), to an employee of that 'national partner'.

Children: Disadvantaged

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of schoolchildren in Ribble Valley constituency qualify for free school meals. [226673]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the table.

Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools[1]: School meal arrangements—Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency—position as at January 2008

	Number/percentage
Maintained nursery and primary schools	
Number on roll[2]	8,425
Number of pupils taking free school meals	226
Percentage taking free school meals	2.7
Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	261
Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals	3.1
Maintained secondary schools[3]	
Number on roll[2]	8,690
Number of pupils taking free school meals	540
Percentage taking free school meals	6.2
Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	598
Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals	6.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed
[2] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils
[3] There are currently no city technology colleges and academies open in Ribble Valley constituency.
Source:
School Census

Children: Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward plans for secure children's homes for children trafficked into the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. [225959]

Beverley Hughes: It is extremely important that all children in care are protected properly. Decisions on whether a child should be placed in a secure children's home are made according to the child's best interests. It would be inappropriate for the Government to second guess individual placement decisions by promoting secure children's homes as a preferred option. Where a local authority looks after a child, including those that have been trafficked, then they are responsible for identifying a placement that will be appropriate to meeting their needs, including their need to be kept safe from any likely harm.

Children: Literacy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to improve literacy levels among key stage 2 children. [224988]

Jim Knight: The Primary Framework for literacy offers access to a broad range of guidance and resources to support teachers in planning and ensuring their

teaching is personalised to the needs of every child. This includes, from this September, new Support for Writing materials to improve the teaching of writing and raise standards in children's learning in this area. Through the Assessing Pupil Progress materials which underpin the Framework teachers can make secure judgments on where children are in their learning and what the next steps in their teaching should be.

In addition, we have started pilots this term of the new Every Child a Writer programme—a Children's Plan commitment. This programme focuses on pupils in years 3 and 4 and includes some one to one tuition. The Making Good Progress Pilot is trialling tuition to pupils who entered the Key Stages behind the expected level and who are not on track to make two levels of progress. Lessons learned from the pilot will inform a wide scale rollout of one to one tuition to reach 300,000 children a year in English by 2010-11 across Key Stages 2 and 3.

Children: Numeracy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to improve numeracy skills among key stage 2 children. [224989]

Jim Knight: The primary framework for literacy and mathematics offers access to a broad range of guidance and resources to support teachers in planning and ensuring their teaching is personalised to the needs of every child. Through the Assessing Pupil Progress materials which underpin the framework, teachers can make secure judgments on where children are in their learning and what the next steps in their teaching should be.

The Independent Review of Mathematics Teaching in Early Years Settings and Primary Schools carried out by Sir Peter Williams reported on 17 June 2008. The Government accepted all 10 recommendations which focused on improving mathematics teaching and learning. The review's main recommendation was that every primary school should have access to a mathematics specialist by 2019. We are developing the training programme for mathematics specialists through a pathfinder project.

In addition, our Every Child Counts programme is in its development phase and will aim to help approximately 30,000 children by 2011. Pilots have started this term. By improving attainment and progression in the bottom 5 per cent. of achievers in key stage 1, this should have a knock-on effect on attainment and progression in key stage 2.

We have set up the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics to provide better access to good quality continuing professional development opportunities for all teachers of mathematics.

We have published a directory of mathematics enhancement and enrichment activities for schools that aim to improve pupils' attitude, motivation and enthusiasm for mathematics.

The Making Good Progress Pilot is trialling tuition to pupils who entered key stages 2 and 3 behind the expected level in mathematics and who are not on track to make two levels of progress. Lessons learned from the pilot will inform a wide scale roll-out of tuition to reach 300,000 children a year in each of mathematics and English by 2010-11. 2010-11 will also see the introduction of an entitlement to individual tuition in mathematics for any pupil in key stage 2 who meets this criterion.

Children: Vetting

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what measures are in place to vet people coming into contact with children as part of their work experience for foundation and higher diplomas. [226026]

Beverley Hughes: All people having regular contact with and direct, unsupervised access to young people engaged in work experience as part of a foundation or higher diploma should be considered for a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure. The decision to seek a CRB disclosure will depend on an assessment of the overall potential risks posed to a young person and should take into account the placement provider's systems for minimising such risks.

The Department has published a range of guidance—both statutory and non-statutory—setting out the roles and responsibilities of both work experience providers and those arranging such placements to ensure that students are learning in a safe environment and are protected from harm.

Children's Centres

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the adult to child ratio in Sure Start children's centres in England was in 2007-08; [225275]

(2) what percentage of children attending Sure Start children's centres in 2007-08 were from each socio-economic group; and what percentage of eligible children from each socio-economic group attended in that period. [225276]

Beverley Hughes: There are no adult/child ratios that are specifically for Sure Start children's centres. Where a centre's services include registered early years provision (integrated early learning and full day care places) this provision is subject to the same ratios and standards as all registered early years provision.

The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the number of Ofsted registered places per paid member of staff in full day care settings in Sure Start children's centres. In 2007, there were 3.9 registered places per paid member of staff.

The Department does not collect information centrally about the percentage of children attending Sure Start children's centres or their socio-economic group. Sure Start children's centres provide universal services for families with children under five. All children, no matter what their socio-economic group, are eligible to access services as are their fathers, mothers and carers. There are currently over 2,900 centres up and running providing early childhood services for almost 2.3 million children. By 2010, there will be at least 3,500 Sure Start children's centres—one for every community.

Children's Centres: Disadvantaged

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children starting primary school in 2008 and eligible for free school meals attended a Sure Start children's centre in the 2007-08 academic year. [225274]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally.

Custody

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families under what circumstances and for what reasons legal custody of a child may be removed from the parents of that child in cases where custody is not contested between the parents themselves. [225217]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* A local authority can only intervene in the care and upbringing of a child without the parents' agreement if the local authority obtains a court order. The Children Act 1989 set out the circumstances under which a child may become subject to a care or supervision order. The threshold criteria for such intervention are:

> that the child concerned is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm; and
>
> that the harm, or likelihood of harm, is attributable to the care given to the child (or which would be given if a care or supervision order were not made) and is not what could be reasonably expected of a parent, or that the child is beyond the control of the parents.

Before any application is made in proceedings, the local authority will undertake a core assessment to assess the parents' capacity to meet the child's developmental needs in the context of the wider family and environmental factors. Other specialist assessments may also be commissioned. This assessment will identify whether there is evidence to support concerns about significant harm but will also focus on family strengths. The information will be analysed and lead to the development of a plan for the child which may result in care proceedings if the local authority consider that the criteria set out above have been met.

It is for the court to determine whether the threshold criteria are met and whether a care order is in the best interests of the child. All the other parties involved have the right to respond to any allegations made in the analysis.

Departmental Consultants

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on consultations in each year since 1997. [226092]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil servants employed by his Department stopped working for the Department in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years. [224802]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was formed as part of the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007. Figures are only available up to the end of August 2008.

During the period 28 June to 31 August, 389 people ceased working for the Department.

	Number of people
2008	
August	27
July	17
June	13
May	23
April	82
March	59
February	14
January	49
2007	
December	11
November	23
October	18
September	21
August	20
July	12

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil servants were employed by his Department on a permanent basis in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years. [224803]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was formed as part of the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007. Figures are only available up to 31 August 2008:

Month	*New recruits to the Department*
2008	
August	12
July	15
June	8
May	15
April	14
March	3
February	5
January	23
2007	
December	4
November	9
October	17
September	22
August	12
July	15

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil servants transferred from his Department to other Government departments in each of the last 24 months. [224804]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was formed as part of the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007. Figures are only available up to the end of August 2008.

During the period 28 June to 31 August, a total number of 116 employees have transferred to other Government Departments:

Month	Number of employees
2008	
August	2
July	7
June	2
May	1
April	63
March	3
February	2
January	3
2007	
December	4
November	11
October	2
September	4
August	7
July	5

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many public consultations were launched by his Department in each year since 1997. [225884]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The figures for DCSF and its predecessors, the Department for Education and Employment and Department for Education and Skills are as follows:

	Consultations launched
1997 (from 1 August)	2
1998	3
1999	3
2000	41
2001	56
2002	35
2003	45
2004	33
2005	45
2006	44
2007	51
2008 (to date)	36

Departmental Publications

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of all staff in his Department who were involved with the preparation and publication of *(a)* reports and *(b)* consultations in each year since 1997. [225904]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Department has a central publications team which, since DCSF was established in 2007, has comprised of 2.5 full-time equivalent staff. However, central records are not held of the many different officials who contribute to the undertakings and publication of the Department's reports. It is therefore not possible to give an accurate estimate of their number or proportion without incurring disproportionate cost.

(b) The Department currently has a central consultation unit which comprises 7.4 full-time staff. This unit manages around 60 per cent. of the Department's consultations and provides support to policy teams running the remainder. Information on the number and proportion of policy team staff involved in consultations is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many reports were published by his Department and its predecessor in each year since 1997. [225905]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This Department and its predecessors published the following number of corporate reports since 1997:

	Number
1997	1
1998	1
1999	1
2000	1
2001	1
2002	1
2003	2
2004	2
2005	2
2006	2
2007	2
2008 (to date)	1

Our central records do not show items which may have been produced under devolved budgets by individual policy teams.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average number of days spent on the preparation and publication of *(a)* reports and *(b)* consultations by his staff in each year since 1997. [225906]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows:

(a) Because budgets for the Department's publications are devolved to individual policy teams, we do not keep central records to show how long staff spend on the undertaking and publication of reports each year. It is therefore not possible to give an accurate estimate without incurring disproportionate cost.

(b) The number of days spent undertaking consultations is not recorded centrally and could not be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on the *(a)* production and *(b)* publication of reports in each year since 1997. [226093]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since its formation, this Department spent £37,720 on production of its corporate reports in 2007 and £21,112 (to date) in 2008.

Our records do not distinguish between the costs of production and publication, and central records do not show items which may have been produced under devolved budgets by individual policy teams.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on voluntary early release schemes and redundancies in each of the last 10 years. [224801]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was formed as part of the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007.

During the period 28 June to date, the cost of voluntary early releases to the Department is £13.2 million. This covers releases planned until September 2009.

Departmental Telephone Services

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what agencies or units for which his Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers which charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency has derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225718]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows:

(a) The DCSF general inquiry line uses an 0870 number to provide a standard call rate for members of the public irrespective of where they live in the country. The Department does not receive any income from the use of an 0870 number.

(b) The Department also contracts with suppliers to provide helpline services to the public, usually in support of information campaigns.

The Sexwise inquiry number is an 0800 number and is therefore free from landlines. The Affordable Childcare Campaign Helpline is also a free 0800 number. Calls to this number are diverted to local family information services in each local authority. The transfers are also cost free to callers.

As with all 0800 numbers, some mobile network charges may apply.

(c) The Department does not have any agencies.

(d) We do not hold costs for our non-departmental public bodies.

Diplomas: Mathematics

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which diplomas will include *(a)* compulsory and *(b)* optional mathematics A-level. [226028]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Mathematics A-Level isn't compulsory for any Diploma, but will be available to learners as part of additional/specialist learning. This offers young people the opportunity to study mathematics where it supports their progression to employment or further study.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people claimed the education maintenance allowance in each year since its introduction. [226031]

Jim Knight: The numbers of successful EMA claims in each academic year since inception is shown in the following table:

	Numbers accessing EMA
1999-2000	14,135
2000-01	73,230
2001-02	114,254
2002-03	124,351
2003-04	126,871
2004-05	297,567
2005-06	430,327
2006-07	528,403
2007-08	556,702

Notes:
1. Young people who have claimed EMA while on an E2E programme and then progressed in the same year to a school sixth form or a college course will be counted twice in the yearly figures;
2. These figures are for England only.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of those aged 16 years and older in education who are eligible to claim education maintenance allowance but do not do so. [226032]

Jim Knight: Eligibility for the education maintenance allowance (EMA) is based on household income. The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on the household income of all households with a 16 to 19-year-old who participate in a course that meets the EMA valid provision criteria. Therefore it is not possible to calculate the precise number of students who are eligible for EMA on household income grounds but do not do so.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of those in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time education aged (i) 16, (ii) 17 year and (iii) 18 years claimed education maintenance allowance in each year since its introduction. [226033]

Jim Knight: The percentages of people studying in full-time education and who received EMA since the scheme was nationally rolled out in 2004 are shown in the following table. The information on the percentage of those in part-time education aged (i) 16 (ii) 17 and (iii) 18-years-old claimed educational maintenance allowance in each year since its introduction is not available as the information held is not broken down in this way.

Table 1: Percentage of people studying in full-time[1] education who received EMA

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
16-year-olds	45.0	45.4	46.4
17-year-olds	15.7	42.3	44.3
18-year-olds	18.2	21.6	51.9

[1] Estimated percentage is likely to include EMA recipients who are studying on courses of less than 450 guided learning hours per year, which is the definition used for full-time full year courses.

Notes:
1. EMA is only available for people studying on courses of at least 12 guided learning hours a week. This is the only management information known about course length of EMA recipients, therefore it not possible to split figures into full and part-time.
2. Information is only available since national rollout in 2004-05.
3. Breakdown for 2007-08 is not available at present.
4. Figures are for England only.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department expects to spend annually on the education maintenance allowance from 2013 onwards. [226039]

Jim Knight: Forecasts of expenditure beyond the current comprehensive spending review period are not available.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people eligible to receive the education maintenance allowance achieved three As at A-level in each year since the allowance was introduced. [226042]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on the percentage of those claiming education maintenance allowance studying for AS or A-level exams.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of those claiming education maintenance allowance studied for AS or A-level exams in each year since the allowance was introduced. [226044]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on the percentage of those claiming education maintenance allowance studying for AS or A-level exams. The evaluation of the EMA pilots did examine the impact of EMA on participation and attainment but did not focus on those studying for specific examinations.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of students eligible to receive the education maintenance allowance have not received a payment under the scheme. [226045]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the delivery of education maintenance allowance (EMA). The LSC has reported technical and processing issues which have resulted in delays to the delivery of EMA to learners.

The LSC have been working with their contractor to improve the position. I wrote to the Chairman of the Select Committee on 8 October to provide an update on progress. A copy of that letter has been copied to the hon. Gentleman and placed in both Libraries of the House.

It should be noted, however, that eligibility for EMA is based on household income. The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on the household income of all households containing a 16 to 19-year-old who are participating in a course that meets the EMA valid provision criteria. Therefore it is not possible to calculate the precise number of students who are eligible for EMA on household income grounds but have not received a payment.

Education: Children in Care

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in care *(a)* gained five or more GCSEs at C grade or above and *(b)* entered university in the latest period for which figures are available. [226584]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The percentage of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months who gained five or more GCSEs or GNVQ equivalents at grades A*-C is given within table C of the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

Information on entries to university of children in care is not held centrally.

Education: Private Finance Initiative

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the economic situation on the delivery of private finance initiative educational projects; and if he will make a statement. [226568]

Jim Knight: The only educational projects where private finance initiative (PFI) is involved are for school buildings and facilities management.

Market interest in BSF continues to be healthy, and to date, no BSF PFI schemes have been delayed or halted as a result of the current economic conditions. Working with Partnerships for Schools, we are closely monitoring the impact of the current financial climate on the marketability of new PFI projects.

An operational PFI contract could be affected where the private sector partner's ability to deliver becomes affected. Where this has happened in the past, we have worked with HM Treasury to ensure that the authority and its schools continue to benefit from the services promised by the PFI contract.

Education: Young People

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities are involved in the 14 to 19 engagement programme; and if he will make a statement. [225852]

Jim Knight: In the 2008/09 academic year there are 112 local authorities involved in the Key Stage 4 engagement programme, listed as follows. These schemes will provide for 21,500 young people who are demotivated by the normal curriculum and are at serious risk of dropping-out. Partnerships of schools, colleges, employers, voluntary sector organisations and training providers have developed a range of work-focused learning, often taught outside typical classrooms, demonstrating the usefulness of learning, developing skills and remotivating young people to continue their education. These local authorities are leading the way in developing this important provision. Of a sample of the Year 11 pupils involved in 2006/07, the first year of the programme, 77 per cent. progressed to full-time learning and 6 per cent. to full-time employment after age 16.

Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Barnsley, Bedfordshire, Bexley, Birmingham, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Bolton, Bournemouth, Bradford, Brighton and Hove, Bristol, Bromley, Bury, Calderdale, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Coventry, Croydon, Cumbria, Derby, Derbyshire, Devon, Doncaster, Dudley, Durham, East Riding of Yorkshire, East Sussex, Essex, Gloucestershire, Greenwich, Hackney, Halton, Hampshire, Haringey, Havering, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Hull, Isle of

Wight, Islington, Kent, Kirklees, Knowsley, Lambeth, Lancashire, Leeds, Leicester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Liverpool, Luton, Manchester, Medway, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, Newcastle, Newham, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Oldham, Peterborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Reading, Redbridge, Rochdale, Rotherham, Rutland, Salford, Sandwell, Sefton, Sheffield, Shropshire, Solihull, Somerset, Southampton, Southend on Sea, South Gloucestershire, South Tyneside, Southwark, Staffordshire, St. Helens, Stockport, Stoke on Trent, Suffolk, Swindon, Tameside, Telford and Wrekin, Thurrock, Torbay, Tower Hamlets, Trafford, Wakefield, Walsall, Waltham Forest, Warrington, Warwickshire, Wigan, Wirral, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire, York.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of 16 to 18-year-olds who are not in education or training, broken down by parental income decile; [226048]

(2) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number and percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education or training; and how many of these belong to households with annual incomes *(a)* below £30,810, *(b)* below £25,522 and *(c)* below £20,817 a year. [226049]

Jim Knight: A combined response to PQs 226048 and 226049 is provided here due to the similarity of the questions and data availability.

The Department publishes estimates of 16 to 18-year-olds who were not in education or training (NET) in a Statistical First Release, which can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml

The latest estimate for 16 to 18-year-olds who were NET in England at the end of 2007 was 21.3 per cent. or 430,000 young people.

These figures cannot be broken down by income decile or household income.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 to 24 year olds were not in full-time education, employment or training in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of the population of 16 to 24 year olds this represented in each such area. [226204]

Beverley Hughes: The Department publishes estimates of 16 to 24-year-olds who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in a quarterly brief on NEET, which can be found here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000751/index.shtml

The data are not split by full/part time education. These figures come from the Labour Force Survey and the latest, quarter two 2008, figure for 16 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training in England was 840,000 or 14.0 per cent. of the population. These figures cannot be disaggregated to local authority or parliamentary constituency level.

However, we can give an indication of the number of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds[1] NEET at the end of 2007 in local authorities in England from data provided by Connexions services. This can be found on the Department's website at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/1419/index.cfm?go=site.home&sid=42&pid=343&lid=337&ctype=Text&ptype=Single

Data provided by Connexions services are used to set and monitor local authority NEET targets. However, it should be noted that figures are calculated on a different basis from that used in the Department's estimates, and therefore do not give the same totals.

[1] Connexions service figures relate to calendar age (rather than academic age as is used in the Department's participation estimates)

Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect that the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant has had on improving educational performance; and if he will make a statement. [227014]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) has risen from £162 million in 2004-05 to £187 million in 2008-09 and will rise to £206 million by 2010-11. This ring-fenced grant provides specific funding to contribute to the work of local authorities and schools in narrowing achievement gaps for black and minority ethnic pupils, and covers some of the additional costs in meeting the needs of bilingual learners and underachieving pupils. In the five years 2002 to 2007 the proportion of children from most ethnic minority groups achieving national expectations at key stages 2 and 4 has increased faster than that of the whole cohort. The targeted use of EMAG has contributed towards this desirable outcome.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils obtaining five good GCSEs including English and mathematics also received an equivalent qualification worth four GCSEs in the latest period for which figures are available. [226446]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not readily available; however the following information shows the percentage of pupils who achieved 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE only and the additional contribution provided when each equivalency is included.

Qualification	*Percentage*
5+ A*-C at GCSE and equivalents	60.8
Of which:	
GCSEs	52.1
GCSE (short)	0.3
GCSEs	
Vocational	1.7
AS Levels	0.1
Full GNVQs	3.3
Other	3.3

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils gaining five good GCSEs did so by gaining five separate GCSE qualifications excluding equivalents in each of the last five years for which data are available. [226480]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is as follows:

Percentage of pupils achieving 5 good GCSEs excluding equivalents

	Percentage
2003	49.9
2004	50.2
2005	51.2
2006	51.6
2007	52.1

Note:
Figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in all schools.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils did not obtain a single D grade or above at GCSE in the latest period for which figures are available. [226485]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: 84,906 pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 did not obtain a single D grade or above at GCSE in 2006/07. This was 13.1 per cent. of all pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in all schools.

Figures relate to GCSE only.

Headteachers: Vacancies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools are without a permanent head teacher in each local authority area. [225429]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

January 2008 figures for head teacher posts that were either vacant or temporarily filled are provided in the following table.

Post are counted where a permanent head teacher is expected to return to the post. It will include posts filled on a temporary basis, those that have not yet been advertised as vacant and where an appointment has been made and not yet taken up.

Temporarily filled head teacher full-time permanent posts in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England, January 2008

	Nursery and primary	Secondary
City of London	0	0
Camden	1	0
Greenwich	1	2
Hackney	2	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	0
Islington	1	0
Kensington and Chelsea	1	0
Lambeth	4	0
Lewisham	0	0
Southwark	1	0
Tower Hamlets	4	1
Wandsworth	0	0
City of Westminster	0	1
Barking and Dagenham	2	0
Barnet	3	0
Bexley	0	1
Brent	2	0
Bromley	1	0
Croydon	5	0
Ealing	3	0
Enfield	2	0

Temporarily filled head teacher full-time permanent posts in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England, January 2008

	Nursery and primary	Secondary
Haringey	0	0
Harrow	4	0
Havering	3	1
Hillingdon	3	0
Hounslow	2	0
Kingston upon Thames	8	0
Merton	1	0
Newham	2	0
Redbridge	3	0
Richmond upon Thames	1	0
Sutton	1	0
Waltham Forest	5	1
Birmingham	11	2
Coventry	0	0
Dudley	5	0
Sandwell	4	0
Solihull	0	0
Walsall	2	0
Wolverhampton	3	1
Knowsley	0	0
Liverpool	1	0
St. Helens	1	0
Sefton	0	0
Wirral	1	1
Bolton	0	0
Bury	1	0
Manchester	2	0
Oldham	5	0
Rochdale	1	0
Salford	7	0
Stockport	1	0
Tameside	0	0
Trafford	1	0
Wigan	0	0
Barnsley	1	0
Doncaster	3	2
Rotherham	1	0
Sheffield	4	2
Bradford	5	2
Calderdale	1	0
Kirklees	0	0
Leeds	5	2
Wakefield	5	0
Gateshead	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	3	0
North Tyneside	4	0
South Tyneside	1	0
Sunderland	1	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0
Isle of Anglesey	0	0
Gwynedd	0	0
Conwy	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0
Flintshire	0	0
Wrexham	0	0
Powys	0	0
Ceredigion	0	0
Pembrokeshire	0	0
Carmarthenshire	0	0
Swansea	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	0	0
Bridgend	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0
Rhondda Cynon Taff	0	0

Temporarily filled head teacher full-time permanent posts in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England, January 2008

	Nursery and primary	Secondary
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0
Caerphilly	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	0	0
Torfaen	0	0
Monmouthshire	0	0
Newport	0	0
Cardiff	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	1	0
City of Bristol	3	0
North Somerset	0	0
South Gloucestershire	7	0
Hartlepool	0	0
Middlesbrough	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	0	0
Stockton on Tees	0	1
City of Kingston Upon Hull	1	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	4	0
North East Lincolnshire	1	0
North Lincolnshire	1	1
North Yorkshire	9	4
York	0	0
Bedfordshire	1	3
Luton	3	1
Buckinghamshire	4	1
Milton Keynes	1	0
Derbyshire	8	1
Derby	2	0
Dorset	11	0
Poole	0	0
Bournemouth	2	0
Durham	3	1
Darlington	0	0
East Sussex	7	1
Brighton and Hove	2	1
Hampshire	14	0
Portsmouth	2	0
Southampton	4	0
Leicestershire	5	1
Leicester	5	0
Rutland	1	0
Staffordshire	11	3
Stoke on Trent	2	0
Wiltshire	6	0
Swindon	2	0
Bracknell Forest	1	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	2	0
West Berkshire	0	0
Reading	2	0
Slough	0	0
Wokingham	0	0
Cambridgeshire	8	0
Peterborough	3	0
Cheshire	11	0
Halton	2	0
Warrington	1	1
Devon	10	1
Plymouth	0	0
Torbay	0	0
Essex	8	1
Southend on Sea	1	0
Thurrock	4	0
Herefordshire	0	0
Worcestershire	6	4
Kent	17	2
Medway	1	0
Lancashire	5	1
Blackburn with Darwen	5	0
Blackpool	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0
Nottingham	0	0
Shropshire	5	0
Telford and Wrekin	2	0
Cornwall	10	0
Cumbria	11	3
Gloucestershire	5	0
Hertfordshire	13	0
Isle of Wight	2	0
Lincolnshire	9	1
Norfolk	2	0
Northamptonshire	3	0
Northumberland	6	1
Oxfordshire	5	1
Somerset	5	1
Suffolk	6	1
Surrey	9	1
Warwickshire	9	0
West Sussex	9	0
Total	469	57

Source:
Annual Survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, 618g.

Health Education: Donors

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Give and Let Live organ donation education programme for secondary school pupils. [226009]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We consider the Give and Let Live programme, produced by NHS Blood and Transplant, to be extremely useful in helping pupils to improve their knowledge and understanding of key issues relating to donation. This view is backed up by the recent evaluation of the programme conducted by the Jeanette Crizzle Trust.

A joint letter from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Secretary of State for Health was sent to all schools on 30 September to raise the profile of the programme, and to ensure that schools are aware of the importance of teaching about donation. Every further education institution will also receive this letter in the week commencing 13 October.

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the group reviewing sex and relationship education to report its recommendations. [225818]

Jim Knight: The sex and relationships education (SRE) review steering group has had its final meeting and is in the process of finalising its report, which it intends to publish shortly.

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of those in receipt of education maintenance allowance entered *(a)* higher education, *(b)* a Russell Group university and *(c)* Oxford or Cambridge University in each year since the allowance was introduced. [226041]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on the destinations of young people after they have been in receipt of education maintenance allowance (EMA). The LSC are planning a future piece of work to conduct further analysis of UCAS data on young people progressing into higher education, and to match that with those who have previously been in receipt of EMA. A copy of that study, when available, will be placed in the House Library.

Independent Schools: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many independent schools had pupils taking key stage 3 tests in the last five years for which figures are available. [225827]

Jim Knight: Independent schools offer national curriculum based assessment at key stage 3 on a voluntary basis. Their results are not published at school level in the secondary (key stage 3) achievement and attainment tables.

The figures in the following table include independent schools and independent schools approved to take pupils with special educational needs in which there were pupils with eligible results:

Examination year	*Independent schools with eligible pupils*	*Total number of schools with eligible pupils*
2007	311	4,472
2006	319	4,491
2005	350	4,510
2004	307	4,502
2003	293	4,469

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many independent schools have pupils studying for an A-level in communication and culture. [226038]

Jim Knight: There is not an A level in communication and culture. Figures for related subjects in 2006/07 are given as follows:

	Independent		*All schools*	
	Number of independent schools and colleges that entered pupils into subject	*Percentage of independent schools and colleges that entered pupils into subject*	*Number of schools and colleges that entered pupils into subject*	*Percentage of schools and colleges that entered pupils into subject*
Accounting	54	9.2	342	12.5
Business Studies	406	69.2	1,837	67.3
Economics	347	59.1	1,134	41.6
Geography	475	80.9	2,187	80.1
Government and Politics	222	37.8	998	36.6
History	493	84.0	2,365	86.7
Law	49	8.3	890	32.6
Psychology	273	46.5	2,078	76.1
Sociology	74	12.6	1,529	56.0
Other social studies	61	10.4	323	11.8
Art and Design	518	88.2	2,398	87.9
Drama	352	60.0	1,669	61.2
English	527	89.8	2,532	92.8
Media/Film/TV	76	12.9	1,358	49.8
Other communication	42	7.2	694	25.4

Notes
1. Other social studies includes 'European studies', 'archaeology', 'logic/philosophy' and 'citizenship'.
2. Art and Design' includes 'drawing and painting', 'graphics', 'photography', '3D studies', 'textiles', 'fine art' and 'critical studies'.
3. Other communication studies include communication studies, performance studies' and 'film studies'.
4. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2006).

Languages: Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which languages are taught in a primary school, broken down by the number of schools teaching each language; [225831]

(2) which primary schools teach a foreign language other than French, Spanish or German. [225832]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table details the proportions of those primary schools who reported in autumn 2007 that they were teaching languages in class time teaching each particular language. The data were obtained from ongoing research commissioned by the Department, which estimated that 84 per cent. of primary schools were teaching languages in class time. The figures are based on a representative sample of maintained primary schools and the survey achieved a 69 per cent. response rate nationally. Percentages do not add up to 100 per cent. as some schools offer two or more languages.

Other languages taught in small numbers of primary schools included: Latin, Russian, Polish, British Sign Language, Punjabi, Arabic, Portuguese, Turkish, Swedish, Dutch, Esperanto, Welsh, Cornish, Danish, Estonian, Taiwanese, Modern Hebrew, Afrikaans, Somali, Maori and Finnish.

	Percentage of schools offering languages at KS2
French	89
Spanish	23
German	9
Italian	3
Other languages	3
Chinese	1
Japanese	1
Urdu	<1
Bengali	<1

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which secondary schools teach *(a)* Chinese, *(b)* Urdu, *(c)* Japanese and *(d)* Italian and are located in a local authority area which also includes at least one primary school which teaches that subject. [225833]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not hold this information.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which secondary schools offer *(a)* Italian, *(b)* Chinese, *(c)* Urdu and *(d)* Japanese at (i) GCSE and (ii) A-level. [225834]

Jim Knight: DCSF does not hold information on schools that offer particular subjects.

Information on the number of schools that entered pupils into these subjects can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Learning and Skills Council

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent staff work for the Learning and Skills Council. [224568]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply

The Learning and Skills Council's Annual Report and Accounts for 2007-08 set out details of the number of staff employed by the organisation. For the year ended March 2008, the average number of staff employed by the LSC was 3,451. This includes 269 agency and temporary staff and five inward secondees. These figures are based on full time equivalent numbers.

Members: Correspondence

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families to reply to the letter dated 29 July from the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham on the Haut de la Garenne children's home. [225987]

Beverley Hughes: A response was sent by the Minister for Children, Young People and Families via e-mail on 9 October.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments are due to ETS for the administration of the national tests in each year from 2008-09 to 2012-13; how much has been paid to ETS to date; and if he will make a statement. [221786]

Jim Knight: The total paid to ETS for the administration of the national curriculum tests during the first contract cycle was £35,023,576.65 (including the final payment under the exit plan of £52,516), of which £19,500,000.00 has now been returned.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils requested a re-mark of key stage *(a)* 2 and *(b)* 3 tests in each of the last five years; and in what percentage of such cases the mark was revised. [225829]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency has in place arrangements for marking to be reviewed where a school believes that it is inaccurate to the extent that a pupil has received an incorrect national curriculum level. The NAA's review service is not available to pupils. However, schools may request reviews of marking on behalf of their pupils.

Tables 1 and 2 show the number of review requests received by the NAA, since 2004, for a marking review of key stage 2 and key stage 3 national curriculum tests and what proportion of the requests resulted in a level change. Data for 2008 are not yet available.

The figures in the tables were provided by the NAA.

Table 1

Pupils

Reviews	*Review requested*				*Reviews resulting in a lower level*				*Reviews resulting in an increase in level*			
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
KS2 English												
Individual review[1]	11,480	15,509	7,516	5,736	50	26	7	8	2,441	762	505	185
Percentage	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.12	0.08	0.03
Group review[2]	n/a	4,561	9,957	3,784	124	55	56	60	1209	320	149	49
Percentage	—	—	—	—	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.19	0.05	0.02	0.01
KS2 Mathematics												
Individual review	623	578	755	670	4	3	0	0	239	282	324	286
Percentage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04

Table 1

Pupils

Reviews	*Review requested*				*Reviews resulting in a lower level*				*Reviews resulting in an increase in level*			
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Group review	0	0	67	0	n/a	0	1	0	n/a	0	2	0
Percentage	—	—	—	—	n/a	—	—	—	n/a	—	—	—
KS2 Science												
Individual review	1,129	885	1,164	1,340	6	2	0	2	634	435	525	555
Percentage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.10	0.07	0.08	0.09
Group review	0	0	27	9	n/a	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	0
Percentage	—	—	—	—	n/a	—	—	—	n/a	—	—	—

Table 2

Pupils

Reviews	*Review requested*				*Reviews resulting in a lower level*				*Reviews resulting in an increase in level*			
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
KS3 English												
Individual review[1]	6,978	2,413	4,790	3,446	306	18	5	10	3,870	1,077	775	1,521
Percentage	—	—	—	—	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.17	0.12	0.23
Group review[2]	n/a	20,544	75,133	25,549	2,422	581	107	488	10,968	2,485	1,825	3,019
Percentage	—	—	—	—	0.37	0.09	0.02	0.08	1.69	0.38	0.28	0.46
KS3 Mathematics												
Individual review	479	604	615	536	13	2	0	1	289	403	401	283
Percentage	—	—	—	—	0.00	—	—	—	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.04
Group review	n/a	0	230	0	n/a	0	5	0	n/a	0	11	0
Percentage	—	—	—	—	n/a	—	0.00	—	n/a	—	0.00	—
KS3 Science												
Individual review	3,086	2,298	1,976	2,651	31	8	5	3	1,157	832	779	898
Percentage	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.13	0.12	0.14
Group review	n/a	870	426	825	n/a	35	18	15	n/a	61	21	22
Percentage	—	—	—	—	n/a	0.01	0.00	0.00	n/a	0.01	000	0.00

[1] Individual reviews are for schools that believe the mark scheme was incorrectly applied for one or more pupils but not across the cohort.
[2] Group reviews are for schools that believe the mark scheme was incorrectly applied across the cohort (which must be more than 30 pupils). Group reviews in mathematics and science were not conducted until 2005.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what reports have been prepared by the National Assessment Agency into the reliability of Key Stage tests since 1 January 2002; which of those reports have been published; if he will publish the unpublished reports; and if he will make a statement. [227035]

Jim Knight: While the National Assessment Agency (NAA) does not routinely produce or publish reports on reliability of Key Stage tests in general, it has produced some reports on the reliability of marking. These are available on the NAA website.

Parents: Employment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to increase the attainment of employment-based skills by parents. [224987]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

We are making skills and learning provision as flexible and accessible as possible both to create a more highly skilled, productive work force and to achieve our goals for improved social justice and inclusion.

Recognising that the family can be a good place to learn, the Learning and Skills Council funds family literacy, language and numeracy programmes, where parents can work towards basic skills qualifications. At the same time, they receive help with supporting their children's learning. A further outcome is that many, having gained confidence and skills, want to gain employment. LSC further funds the Family Learning Network which runs a variety of learning events such as the Family Learning Festival taking place over the course of October 2008.

The Government have made a clear commitment to integrate the employment and skills systems. The aim is that all of those out of work—including parents—will get the help they need to address their skills needs, find employment and progress in work through continued skills development. To help more people find more learning, we are creating a new adult advancement and

careers service, drawing together a full range of advice and support on issues such as jobs, skills, child care, housing, financial and personal issues to address the broader needs of customers.

Pre-school Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the projected annual costs arising from the extension of free entitlement to nursery places to all two year olds; [226102]

(2) when he expects the extension of the free entitlement to nursery places to all two year olds to be implemented. [226103]

Beverley Hughes: We are currently working with our delivery partners to develop plans to extend the free early education entitlement for two-year-olds. Pilots are already operating in 63 local authorities. More information about the extension will be included in the child care strategy document, announced in June and to be published within the next three months.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he expects all two to five year olds in England to be entitled to 15 hours per week of pre-school education; and if he will make a statement; [226322]

(2) how many three to five year olds he expects to be entitled to 15 hours per week of pre-school education in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [226320]

(3) how much additional funding will be made available to increase the pre-school education entitlement to 15 hours per week for two to five year olds in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [226323]

(4) how many two year olds he expects to be entitled to 15 hours per week of pre-school education in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [226321]

Beverley Hughes: From 2010 all three and four-year-olds will be entitled to 15 hours of free early education. We are already implementing a staged roll out of the extended entitlement, with three and four-year-olds in 34 local authority pathfinders entitled to 15 hours free early education from this year and an additional 25 per cent. of children in all other local authorities entitled to 15 hours of free early education from 2009. An additional £590 million is available between now and 2011 for this extension. Subsequent funding will, of course, depend on the outcome of the next comprehensive spending review.

We are currently working with our delivery partners to develop plans to extend the free early education entitlement for two-year-olds. Pilots are already operating in 63 local authorities. More information about the extension will be included in the child care strategy document, announced in June and to be published by the end of this year.

Primary Capital Programmes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the primary capital programmes submitted to his Department by each local authority in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [225031]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are no immediate plans to do so. We are currently finalising our assessment of the strategic plans for local delivery of the primary capital programme and expect to be in a position to notify local authorities of the outcome shortly.

Primary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools were closed or merged in each year since 1997. [226436]

Jim Knight: The following table sets out the number of primary maintained mainstream schools which have closed or merged each year under local decision-making arrangements, which were introduced in September 1999. Information held on proposals that were decided under the arrangements that operated prior to September 1999 is not reliable and has therefore been excluded.

Reason for closure	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Cease to Maintain	9	20	20	24	32	27	35	38	38	243
Due to Amalgamation	92	168	172	170	180	208	208	245	160	1,603
For an Academy	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	6	5	14
Fresh Start	6	1	1	2	3	5	2	2	—	22
Add or Change Religious Character	—	2	3	7	4	6	2	1	—	25
New Establishment	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Total	107	193	196	203	223	246	247	292	203	1,910

Note:
The table includes the reasons for closure. The numbers shown in the row headed 'Cease to Maintain' indicate closures where the schools have not been replaced by new schools. In all other cases, a replacement school will have been established (sometimes on the site of a closing school), or an amalgamating school altered, to accommodate displaced pupils.

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of primary school pupils were being educated in schools with more than 500 pupils in each year since 1997. [226438]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is given in the table.

Maintained primary schools[1]: Number (headcount) of pupils in primary schools with more than 500 pupils[2] - position in January each year 1997 to 2008 - England

	Number of pupils in primary schools	Number of primary schools	Number of primary schools with more than 500 pupils	Percentage of primary schools with more than 500 pupils	Number of pupils in primary schools with more than 500 pupils	Percentage of primary schools with more than 500 pupils
1997	4,429,043	18,392	536	2.9	310,747	7.0
1998	4,460,646	18,312	536	3.0	324,357	7.3
1999	4,460,171	18,234	577	3.2	338,372	7.6
2000	4,435,346	18,158	570	3.1	336,932	7.6
2001	4,406,215	18,069	597	3.3	352,966	8.0
2002	4,363,343	17,985	582	3.2	343,788	7.9
2003	4,309,034	17,861	539	3.0	320,289	7.4
2004	4,252,540	17,762	514	2.9	306,438	7.2
2005	4,204,496	17,642	503	2.9	301,253	7.2
2006	4,148,951	17,504	487	2.8	293,394	7.1
2007	4,107,676	17,361	476	2.7	289,678	7.1
2008	4,087,786	17,205	482	2.8	295,065	7.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
Source:
School Census

Primary Education: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which primary schools in Gloucestershire have fewer than 50 pupils. [225420]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is given in the table.

Maintained primary schools: schools with fewer than 50 pupils (headcount): As at January 2008. Gloucestershire local authority

School Name	Estab number	Headcount of pupils[1]
Withington Church of England Primary School	3352	14
Joys Green Primary School	2079	15
Monkscroft Community Primary School	2182	17
Bibury Church of England Primary School	3019	32
Oakridge Parochial School	3310	32
Didbrook Primary School	2087	34
Swell Church of England Primary School	3071	36
Ashleworth Church of England Primary School	3086	37
Toddington Primary School	2100	39
Down Ampney Church of England Primary School	3087	39
Longborough Church of England Primary School	3045	40
Redbrook Church of England Primary School	3054	40
Sherborne Church of England Primary School	3067	41
Siddington Church of England Primary School	3089	43
Pauntley Church of England Primary School	3060	46
Clearwell Church of England Primary School	3053	48
Christ Church Church of England Primary School	3314	48
Hillesley Church of England Primary School	3367	48
Southrop Church of England Primary School	3070	49

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
Source:
School Census

Primary National Strategy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much has been spent on the Primary National Strategy in each year from 2006 to 2008; [224570]

(2) how much was spent on the National Literacy Strategy in each year from 1997 to 2006; [224573]

(3) how much was spent on the National Numeracy Strategy in each year from 1998 to 2006. [224574]

Jim Knight: The National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies were introduced in 1998 and 1999 respectively and developed formally into the Primary National Strategy in 2003. From 1998-99 to 2003-04 the Department has allocated £531.2 million to primary schools and local authorities through the Standards Fund to support the National Literacy Strategy and £480.6 million between 1999-2000 to 2003-04 to support the National Numeracy Strategy.

From 2004-05 to 2008-09 the Department has allocated a further £915.9 million to support the Primary National Strategy.

The following table shows a breakdown of Standards Fund grants by year since 1998.

£ million

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
National Literacy Strategy	62.7	72.8	84.5	102.6	101.2	107.4	—	—	—	—	—	531.2
National Numeracy Strategy	0	73.8	95.2	103	101.2	107.4	—	—	—	—	—	480.6

£ million

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
Primary National Strategy	—	—	—	—	—	—	[1]131	185	198	206.5	[2]195.4	915.9

[1] Reduced to reflect transfer of £96 million from the NS school targeted Standards Fund grants to the School Development Grant. Schools have freedom to spend the SDG on any purpose to support improvement in teaching and learning, leading to higher standards of attainment for every learner. Schools can draw on the support available from the NS when considering the most effective way of using this grant to meet their targets.
[2] Provisional figure.

In addition to these grants the Department also holds a contract for the central delivery of the National Strategies. The contract spend is approximately £80 million annually, of which approximately £7 million specifically is for primary mathematics and £11 million for primary English. There are also a number of other cross-phase programmes which impact on the Primary phase. The contract includes the provision of an education field force to support local authorities and schools, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) materials and training events provided free to schools.

Primary School: Admissions

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Leeds West constituency due to enter their first year of primary school did not have a place by 1 September in each year since 1997. [226246]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect data on primary school offers or on the number of unplaced children. Local authorities are under a duty to make sure that every child of compulsory school age has a suitable school place.

Primary Schools: Local Authorities

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidelines he has issued to education authorities relating to over-subscribed primary schools. [224647]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Admission authorities for schools that have more applications than places available, including primary schools, must apply published oversubscription criteria to determine who has priority for places. When setting and applying their admission arrangements, local authorities, admission authorities and schools must act in accordance with the School Admissions Code, which we issued in 2007. Primary schools must also comply with admissions legislation, including infant class size regulations which, with some exceptions, limit infant classes to 30 pupils to one teacher.

We have just consulted on further improvements to the admissions framework.

Pupil Exclusions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms he plans to put in place requiring schools to take part in the education of excluded schoolchildren; whether his plans will cover every excluded schoolchild; whether schools will be able to opt out; how many school age children he estimates will still be excluded and not allocated to a school after the programme has been implemented; how the programme will be monitored; who will monitor it; and if he will make a statement. [226557]

Jim Knight: Since September 2007, all schools have had a statutory duty to provide suitable, full-time education for pupils who have been given a fixed period exclusion of six days or more. Local authorities have a similar duty in respect of permanently excluded pupils. This requirement applies to all pupils of compulsory school age. In 2006/07, before this requirement came into force, 425,500 pupils were given a fixed period exclusion of which 43,340 were for six days or more. The average length of a fixed period exclusion is 3.2 days.

We do not collect information on how schools are discharging their duty but we have asked local authorities to appoint a lead officer to monitor education provision for excluded pupils. Also, Ofsted is currently conducting a thematic review of how schools and local authorities are meeting their requirement to provide excluded pupils with suitable, full-time education.

Pupils: Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the minimum number of recommended hours a week is that a student taking a *(a)* foundation, *(b)* higher and *(c)* advanced diploma should spend studying (i) mathematics, (ii) English and (iii) science (A) excluding and (B) including applied learning. [226027]

Jim Knight: Schools have flexibility in how they deliver their weekly timetable and the hours they allocate to individual subjects. Diploma students studying a foundation or higher diploma at key stage 4 will study mathematics, English and science as part of the core curriculum.

For an advanced diploma, the level of English, mathematics or science that would be covered would depend upon the line of learning and associated additional and specialist learning (ASL) topics being studied.

The level of applied learning in each of these areas will be in addition to this and will vary according to the diploma line of learning and the ASL options taken. At least 50 per cent. of the principal learning element of the diploma will be applied learning.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many boys on free school meals achieved *(a)* five A* to C passes at GCSE, *(b)* five A* to C passes at GCSE including mathematics and English, *(c)* five A* to C passes at GCSE including mathematics, English and a science and *(d)* five A* to C passes at GCSE including mathematics, English, science and a foreign language in each year since 1997. [224877]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The proportion of boys eligible for free school meals who achieved, *(a)* five A* to C GCSEs (2006 and 2007 only), and *(b)* five A* to C GCSEs including mathematics and English (2002 to 2007), can be found in the following statistical first releases. Prior to 2002 pupil level characteristics information was not collected.

	Statistical first release	*Table number*
2007	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/CrosstabsforSFR.xls	17
2006	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/Addition1V1.xls	32
2005	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000640/Addition2.xls	44
2004	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000564/Tables_26_30.xls	28 (5AC)
2003	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/table37-40.xls	40a (KS4 5AC)
2002	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/table49-52.xls	52a (KS4 5AC)

Further information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Pupils: Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children in care received *(a)* fixed-term and *(b)* permanent exclusions in each of the last five years. [225842]

Beverley Hughes: The number and percentage of looked after children who were permanently excluded in 2005, 2006 and 2007 can be found in table A of the "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" Statistical First Release accessible via the link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml.

The number and percentage of looked after children who were permanently excluded in 2003 and 2004 can be found in table A of the "Outcome Indicators for Looked-after Children, Twelve months to 30 September 2005—England" Statistical First Release accessible via the link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000651/index.shtml.

Information on fixed term exclusions is not collected centrally.

Pupils: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children transferred to high schools in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; and how many children resident in each borough transferred to a school in another borough in each year. [225754]

Jim Knight: The information requested for 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(1) For the first part of the question, the number of children aged 11 at secondary schools in each London local authority can be used as a proxy and the latest information is available as an Excel table (Table 15) of the following Statistical First Release:

DCSF: Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

Additional information

EXCEL (These Excel spreadsheets contain local authority tables of pupils characteristics and class sizes)

(2) For the second part of the question, the latest information on the movement of children between local authorities is available as Excel tables via the following publications:

DCSF: Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

Additional information

EXCEL (Cross local authority border movement of school pupils resident in England (primary, secondary, and special and sixth form), January 2008 (Provisional))

DCSF: School Destinations of Secondary School Pupils Resident in London Boroughs, 2008 (Internet only)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000807/index.shtml

Additional information

EXCEL (These Excel spreadsheets contain tables 9 to 41 from this bulletin (individual local authority tables showing the school destinations of secondary school pupils)).

School Meals: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which primary schools have full kitchen facilities in Stroud constituency; and which other schools in Stroud have facilities for hot meals. [225428]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information.

Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools are both *(a)* national challenge schools and *(b)* extra mile schools, or mentor schools; and if he will make a statement. [225851]

Jim Knight: The "Extra Mile" is a small project, launched in July 2008, designed to help schools serving disadvantaged areas raise the attainment and aspirations of their pupils. All schools will trial one or two activities which have been shown to be effective elsewhere, and will be put in touch with a partner school which has experience of those activities. Four Extra Mile schools were below the threshold of 30 per cent. of pupils gaining five plus good GCSEs inc. English and Maths in 2007: Oakmead School, Bournemouth; Portchester School, Bournemouth; St. Hugh's Church of England College, Grantham, Lincolnshire; Witton Park High School, Blackburn with Darwen. Six of the partner schools were in the same situation: Banbury School, Oxfordshire; Newall Green High School, Manchester; Ridgeway School, Wirrall; Park High School, Wirrall; The Wordsley School, Dudley; Sir Henry Cooper School, Kingston upon Hull.

There is no contradiction between a school being an Extra Mile school or partner school and being below the 30 per cent. threshold. The Government want all schools to achieve a good standard of education for their pupils, which is why we launched the National Challenge to give extra support to schools currently below this threshold. Many of these are improving schools serving very disadvantaged communities, so they are well-placed to share their experiences with schools facing similar challenges. It would be unrealistic to partner an Extra Mile school with a school serving a very different type of community.

£400 million is available to support National Challenge schools over the next three years. This includes £200 million announced in the 2008 budget for National Challenge plus an additional £200 million identified from existing resources. The Government hope that many of these schools will rise above the 30 per cent. floor target when the 2008 results are known.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools offering the core set of extended services; and if he will make a statement. [225854]

Beverley Hughes: As of 30 September 2008, there were over 10,900 (64 per cent.) primary schools and over 2,400 (72 per cent.) secondary schools providing access to the core offer of extended services.

This shows we are making good progress towards our 2010 target and behind this there are many other schools which are already providing individual parts of the core offer that are not yet included in these figures. Monthly variations can occur, resulting in figures going down as well as up, for example as a result of local school reorganisations.

Schools: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that all those who were approved to mark standard assessment test papers in 2008 but who received no scripts to mark will receive the compensation payment of £250 from ETS; and if he will make a statement; [225036]

(2) how many markers of national key stage tests in 2008 *(a)* have received and *(b)* are yet to receive compensation payments because they did not receive any scripts; by what date he expects all such markers to have received compensation payments; what the reason is for the time taken to pay compensation; and if he will make a statement. [225091]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency manages the contract for ETS Europe, which is responsible for all marker contracting and payments for the 2008 test cycle. NAA has confirmed that they have received written assurance from ETS that they will resolve all marker queries or complaints regarding pay as part of the plan for contract closure.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what date he expects the contracts for administration of the 2009 key stage tests to be agreed; and if he will make a statement. [225169]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority advise that they expect the procurement process for suppliers to administer the 2009 key stage tests to be complete by December 2008.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the reliability of the marking of key stage 2 and 3 tests in 2008; on the basis of what information that assessment was made; and if he will make a statement. [225170]

Jim Knight: It is the responsibility of the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual) to advise on the quality of marking in this year's key stage 2 and 3 national curriculum tests. Ofqual have said that on the basis of the evidence they saw, they conclude that the quality of marking is at least as good as in previous years. However, it will not be possible to draw robust conclusions about the quality and reliability of marking until we have received full information from this year's reviews process, which Ofqual is continuing to monitor.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many requests for marking reviews of *(a)* key stage 2 and *(b)* key stage 3 tests were received in each year from 2002 to 2007; what proportion of these requests resulted in a change of mark; and if he will make a statement. [225171]

Jim Knight: Tables 1 and 2 as follows show how many requests were received, since 2004, for a marking review of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 national curriculum tests, and what proportion of the requests resulted in a level change.

Data for the period 2001-03 are not available in the format requested.

The figures in the tables were provided by the National Assessment Agency (NAA), which is responsible for the administration of national curriculum tests including the external marking and group reviews service to schools.

Table 1

	Review requested (pupils)				*Reviews resulting in a lower level (Pupil)*				*Reviews resulting in an increase in level (Pupil)*			
Reviews	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
KS2 English												
Individual review	11480	15509	7516	5736	50	26	7	8	2441	762	505	185
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.12	0.08	0.03
Group review[1]	n/a	4561	9957	3784	124	55	56	60	1209	320	149	49
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.19	0.05	0.02	0.0

Table 1

Reviews	Review requested (pupils)				Reviews resulting in a lower level (Pupil)				Reviews resulting in an increase in level (Pupil)			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
KS2 Mathematics												
Individual review	623	578	755	670	4	3	0	0	239	282	324	286
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04
Group review	0	0	67	0	n/a	0	1	0	n/a	0	2	0
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	n/a	—	—	—	n/a	—	—	—
KS2 Science												
Individual review	1129	885	1164	1340	6	2	0	2	634	435	525	555
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.10	0.07	0.08	0.09
Group review	0	0	27	9	n/a	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	0
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	n/a	—	—	—	n/a	—	—	—

Table 2

Reviews	Reviews requested (pupils)				Reviews resulting in a lower level (pupil)				Reviews resulting in an increase in level (pupil)			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
KS3 English												
Individual review	6978	2413	4790	3446	306	18	5	10	3870	1077	775	1521
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.17	0.12	0.23
Group review	n/a	20544	75133	25549	2422	581	107	488	10968	2485	1825	3019
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	0.37	0.09	0.02	0.08	1.69	0.38	0.28	0.46
KS3 Mathematics												
Individual review	479	604	615	536	13	2	0	1	289	403	401	283
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	0.00	—	—	—	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.04
Group review	n/a	0	230	0	n/a	0	5	0	n/a	0	11	0
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	n/a	—	0.00	—	n/a	—	0.00	—
KS3 Science												
Individual review	3086	2298	1976	2651	31	8	5	3	1157	832	779	898
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.13	0.12	0.14
Group review	n/a	870	426	825	n/a	35	18	15	n/a	61	21	22
(Percentage)	—	—	—	—	n/a	0.01	0.00	0.00	n/a	0.01	0.00	0.00

[1] Group reviews in mathematics and science were not conducted until 2005

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the costs and benefits of teacher assessment of key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests, with external moderation; and if he will make a statement. [225173]

Jim Knight: No specific assessment has been made of the costs and benefits of externally moderated teacher assessment at key stages 2 and 3. Experience at key stage 1 does however provide information about the costs of external moderation of teacher assessment. The National Assessment Agency has a budget of £92,000 in the financial year 2008-09 to spend on the external moderation of local authorities' own moderation processes for KS1 assessments.

Schools: Compensation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much in compensation was paid by schools to *(a)* pupils and *(b)* teachers in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [226442]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information.

Schools: Ethnic Minorities

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls from each ethnic minority group did not achieve any A* to C grades at GCSE in each of the last 10 years. [224805]

Jim Knight: Figures for 2006-07 are given in the following table. Information for earlier years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils not achieving any GCSE grades A-C (or equivalent) by ethnicity and gender in 2006-07*

		Number of pupils not achieving any GCSE grades A-C (or equivalent)*	*Percentage of pupils not achieving any GCSE grades A*-C (or equivalent)*	*Total number of pupils*
African	Female	962	16.4	5,863
	Male	1,371	23.9	5,743
Any other Asian background	Female	300	12.5	2,406
	Male	654	24.5	2,672
Any other black background	Female	222	17.7	1,253
	Male	416	29.3	1,421
Any other ethnic group	Female	380	15.0	2,532
	Male	685	23.5	2,913
Any other mixed background	Female	382	14.9	2,566
	Male	629	24.6	2,561
Any other white background	Female	991	15.1	6,567
	Male	1,477	21.6	6,832
Bangladeshi	Female	376	13.1	2,878
	Male	651	23.2	2,803
Caribbean	Female	766	17.9	4,288
	Male	1,290	31.8	4,062
Chinese	Female	59	5.2	1,134
	Male	89	8.0	1,111
Gypsy/ Roman	Female	129	67.2	192
	Male	141	77.9	181
Indian	Female	470	7.2	6,559
	Male	902	13.2	6,842
Information not obtained	Female	597	24.3	2,453
	Male	975	31.7	3,076
Irish	Female	204	18.3	1,112
	Male	255	22.6	1,130
Pakistani	Female	1,156	16.6	6,968
	Male	2,222	29.2	7,618
Refused	Female	559	18.4	3,034
	Male	820	26.3	3,119
Traveller of Irish heritage	Female	53	69.7	76
	Male	61	74.4	82
White and Asian	Female	180	12.7	1,419
	Male	268	18.6	1,441
White and black African	Female	125	18.0	694
	Male	165	24.3	680
White and black Caribbean	Female	600	20.7	2,897
	Male	931	34.1	2,733
White British	Female	41,859	17.3	241,854
	Male	62,369	25.0	249,913
All students	Female	50,370	17.0	296,745
	Male	76,371	24.9	306,933

Figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 study in maintained schools.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what financial support is available from *(a)* central and *(b)* local education authority funds for the running of small schools. [225310]

Jim Knight: The allocation formula for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) does not separately allocate money to support small rural schools; it is based on local authorities' spending on schools for 2005-06, which is closely related to the formula for Schools Formula Spending Shares in use that year. That funding formula, which now underlies the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), included an indicator of sparsity which reflects the Government's recognition of the needs of rural authorities to maintain smaller primary schools on average than other authorities. We calculate that DSG in 2008-09 contains £191 million funding for the extra costs of primary schools which arise due to sparsity of population. It is for local discretion how much of that authorities spend on the increased costs associated with small rural schools and we are aware that some authorities have specific protection for small schools within their local formulae.

The following table sets out estimated amounts within 2008-09 allocations of DSG, derived from the amounts allocated through the schools FSS formula in 2005-06 on the basis of sparsity, updated appropriately, totalling £191 million for the year.

Authority	*Estimated amount for sparsity (£ million)*
Barking and Dagenham	—
Barnet	—
Barnsley	0.30
Bath and North East Somerset	0.50
Bedfordshire	2.55
Bexley	—
Birmingham	—
Blackburn with Darwen	0.21
Blackpool	—
Bolton	—
Bournemouth	—
Bracknell Forest	0.08
Bradford	0.50
Brent	—
Brighton and Hove	—
Bristol, City of	—
Bromley	0.06
Buckinghamshire	2.81
Bury	—
Calderdale	0.56
Cambridgeshire	6.00
Camden	—
Cheshire	3.53
City of London	0.002
Cornwall	5.32
Coventry	—
Croydon	—
Cumbria	6.46
Darlington	0.33

Authority	Estimated amount for sparsity (£ million)
Derby	—
Derbyshire	4.39
Devon	9.14
Doncaster	1.63
Dorset	3.99
Dudley	—
Durham	2.64
Ealing	—
East Riding of Yorkshire	3.81
East Sussex	2.78
Enfield	—
Essex	6.40
Gateshead	0.12
Gloucestershire	4.21
Greenwich	—
Hackney	—
Halton	0.06
Hammersmith and Fulham	—
Hampshire	6.00
Haringey	—
Harrow	—
Hartlepool	0.13
Havering	—
Herefordshire	2.92
Hertfordshire	2.76
Hillingdon	—
Hounslow	—
Isle of Wight	0.92
Islington	—
Kensington and Chelsea	—
Kent	5.92
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	—
Kingston upon Thames	—
Kirklees	1.04
Knowsley	0.23
Lambeth	—
Lancashire	4.70
Leeds	0.71
Leicester	—
Leicestershire	3.53
Lewisham	—
Lincolnshire	9.54
Liverpool	—
Luton	—
Manchester	—
Medway	0.42
Merton	—
Middlesbrough	—
Milton Keynes	0.80
Newcastle upon Tyne	—
Newham	—
Norfolk	9.01
North East Lincolnshire	0.38
North Lincolnshire	1.41
North Somerset	0.80
North Tyneside	—
North Yorkshire	10.33
Northamptonshire	4.23
Northumberland	3.30
Nottingham	—
Nottinghamshire	3.34
Oldham	0.22
Oxfordshire	4.28
Peterborough	0.50
Plymouth	—
Poole	—
Portsmouth	—
Reading	—
Redbridge	—
Redcar and Cleveland	0.39
Richmond upon Thames	—
Rochdale	—
Rotherham	0.49
Rutland	0.58
Salford	—
Sandwell	—
Sefton	—
Sheffield	0.33
Shropshire	4.37
Slough	—
Solihull	0.39
Somerset	5.48
South Gloucestershire	1.17
South Tyneside	—
Southampton	—
Southend-on-Sea	—
Southwark	—
St. Helens	0.13
Staffordshire	4.11
Stockport	—
Stockton-on-Tees	0.29
Stoke-on-Trent	—
Suffolk	6.31
Sunderland	—
Surrey	2.22
Sutton	—
Swindon	0.43
Tameside	—
Telford and Wrekin	0.58
Thurrock	0.21
Torbay	—
Tower Hamlets	—
Trafford	—
Wakefield	0.24
Walsall	—
Waltham Forest	—
Wandsworth	—
Warrington	0.06
Warwickshire	3.45
West Berkshire	1.09
West Sussex	3.02
Westminster	—
Wigan	—
Wiltshire	5.92
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.39
Wirral	—
Wokingham	0.40
Wolverhampton	—
Worcestershire	2.37
York	0.32

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made in trends of school balances. [225313]

Jim Knight: Surplus balances totalled £1.7 billion as of 31 March 2007 and early indications from 2008 returns suggest a further increase.

Local authorities have powers to claw back excessive uncommitted surpluses defined as 5 per cent. of budget for a secondary school and 8 per cent. of budget for a primary or special school. DCSF will continue to monitor balances and unless there is a substantial reduction in total balances, the Government will consider further action to bring the total down.

It remains important, therefore, that schools and local authorities work to manage the level of revenue balances over the next two years. In formulating any new measure to tackle high balances, the Department will continue to work with its partners including the representatives of head teachers and governors, on the technical issues which concern schools. And we will consult widely with schools and others on a detailed proposition before the measure is implemented.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much and what proportion of the schools budget was not passed from local authorities to schools in the most recent year for which figures are available. [225828]

Jim Knight: Local authorities are required to manage their schools budget in line with the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008. All of the schools budget is spent on pupil provision, but some is retained centrally where this is the best way to manage it: the principal areas are funding for provision of the three and four year old free entitlement in private, voluntary and independent nursery providers; funding for statemented pupils with special education needs; funding for Pupil Referral Units and other education outside school; and a contingency distributed to schools during the year against unforeseen circumstances. Nationally 88.6 per cent. of the total schools budget is to be delegated to schools in 08-09. All centrally retained expenditure is discussed with the local schools forum, and the amount retained centrally may not increase year on year faster than the individual schools budget (that delegated directly to schools) without the schools forum's agreement. Section 151 Officers of each local authority are required to sign a certificate stating that they have used the dedicated schools grant for the purposes for which it is assigned.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department plans to spend on e-learning credits in each of the next five years; how much his Department spent on e-learning credits in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [225853]

Jim Knight: In line with our overarching commitment to devolve responsibility to head teachers and governors, ring-fenced funding for e-Learning Credits (eLCs) came to an end in 2007-08. As the amount of ring-fenced funding was reduced over the last two years, the balance of the annual £100 million for eLCs was absorbed into the Devolved Formula Capital funding that schools receive.

Schools: Genetics

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has issued guidance on the use of biometric technology relating to school children to *(a)* schools and *(b)* parents. [226099]

Jim Knight: Guidance on the use of biometric technology in schools was published on the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA) website in July 2007. Responsibility for all matters relating to biometric technology in schools now resides with BECTA.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many vacancies there are for school governors in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Colchester constituency for (i) primary, (ii) junior and (iii) secondary schools, broken down by category of governor. [226740]

Jim Knight: The following table, provided by Essex county council, shows the number of governor vacancies in:

(a) Essex

Category of Governor	*Primary*	*Junior*	*Secondary*
Parent	134	54	40
Staff	59	14	20
LEA	50	17	7
Community	98	24	22
Foundation	70	4	10
Partnership	7	2	8

(b) Colchester constituency

Category of Governor	*Primary*	*Junior*	*Secondary*
Parent	14	11	3
Staff	5	4	5
LEA	8	3	1
Community	10	4	2
Foundation	14	0	0
Partnership	1	0	1

Schools: Planning

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many proposals for new schools have been through the planning process since the introduction of the new Building Bulletin 100: Design for Fire Safety in Schools; and in how many cases the fitting of sprinkler systems has been required following the application of the cost and benefit analysis contained in the bulletin. [225972]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not hold information on how many new schools have been through the planning process or on how many new school buildings have sprinkler systems. Planning applications and decisions on whether or not to install sprinkler systems are dealt with at a local level. It is our presumption that all new schools will have fire sprinklers installed but we do not intend to require this. There may be a few cases where local authorities or other promoters of schools consider that sprinklers are not needed. If so, they will need to be able to demonstrate that such schools are low risk and that sprinklers would not represent good value for money.

Schools: Property

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether academy or foundation trusts may *(a)* develop, *(b)* sublet and *(c)* grant licences over their land and buildings. [225379]

Jim Knight: The majority of academy buildings are now procured by the local authority (LA) on land owned by the LA. Following completion of the academy buildings and defects liability period, the LA leases the buildings to the Academy Trust for a period of 125 years for a peppercorn rent. The academy has powers, under this standard lease arrangement, to make alterations to the buildings, sublet the property and grant licences over the land. There is a small number of academy buildings which are procured by the LA but built on land owned by a third party (other than the LA). The terms of such lease arrangements are largely as described above but they can vary.

Those academies that were built early in the programme by the Academy Trust were, in some cases, given the freehold of their land, in which case they can develop, sublet or grant licenses over their land and buildings.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether *(a)* pupils, *(b)* parents and *(c)* local residents have powers to object to the use or management of land or buildings by an academy or foundation trust. [225380]

Jim Knight: Academies generally occupy their land and buildings through a lease from the local authority (LA). Academy trusts are bound by the terms and conditions of that lease to keep the land and buildings in good repair. Any member of the local community who has concerns about the management of land or buildings occupied by an academy can notify the LA. In addition, an academy trust must gain planning permission for any change in use of land, and the local community, including parents and local residents, can make objections through the usual planning consultation process if they disagree with the proposed use.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value is of *(a)* land and *(b)* buildings owned by academy trusts and foundations; and how much funding has been contributed by academy and foundation school sponsors to the capital costs of these schools. [225381]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect information on the value of academies' land holdings and buildings. Information on the net book value of freehold land and buildings for individual academies open by 2006 is currently available in their statutory accounts.

There is no central record of the value of land and buildings held by foundation schools, or the foundations of voluntary schools.

The total of capital sponsorship of academies for which the Department has evidence of payment as at July 2008 is £75.4 million.

Foundation schools as a category do not have sponsors. If they are also trust schools there is not a sponsorship requirement, and any financial contributions from trust members are on a voluntary basis and neither payment nor use is centrally recorded.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils obtained five good GCSEs including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in each year since 1997. [224875]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given as follows:

	Number of pupils[1]	*Five plus A**-C grades inc. English and mathematics GCSEs*
15-year- olds		
1996/97[2]	586,766	35.6
1997/98	575,210	37.0
1998/99	580,972	38.6
1999/2000	580,393	40.0
2000/01	603,318	40.7
2001/02	606,554	42.1
2002/03	622,122	41.9
2003/04	643,560	42.2
Pupils at End Key Stage 4		
2004/05	633,414	44.1
2005/06	645,931	44.7
2006/07	649,159	44.2

[1] Number of pupils on roll aged 15 at the start of the academic year or from 2004/05 end of Key Stage 4 figures are the number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in that academic year.
[2] Percentages from 1996/97 include GCSEs and GNVQs.
Notes:
1. Including attempts and achievement in previous academic years.
2. Figures for 2006/07 are revised, all other figures are final.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which National Challenge schools *(a)* have and *(b)* have not appointed a National Challenge Adviser; and if he will make a statement. [224902]

Jim Knight: National challenge advisers (NCAs) will be appointed by local authorities on 1 November 2008.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been put into special measures *(a)* once, *(b)* twice, *(c)* three times and *(d)* more than three times in the last 10 years. [224930]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will be writing to the MP and a copy will be placed in both Libraries of the House.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 13 October 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Between 1 April 1998 and 1 April 2008,1,694 maintained schools were placed in special measures once and 42 schools were placed in special measures twice.

In addition, prior to September 2005, there was no statutory limit on the length of time a school could stay in special measures. With the introduction of the current inspection framework in September 2005, there is now a statutory limit of two years. Upon reaching this limit and undergoing a re-inspection, five schools had not been removed from special measures. Although these schools are not included in the 42 schools referred to above, they were judged as requiring special measures for a second time.

No school was placed in special measures three times, or more than three times, during this period.

Data for the summer term 2008 have not yet been published and are not included in these figures. These will be included in my Annual Report 2007/08, due to be published in November 2008.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of white British boys eligible for free school meals did not achieve *(a)* any GCSE passes, *(b)* at least one GCSE pass at grade C or above, *(c)* at least five GCSEs at A*-C and *(d)* at least five A*-C GCSEs, including English and mathematics in each year between 2001 and 2008; and if he will make a statement. [225065]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The proportion of white British boys eligible for free school meals who failed to achieve *(a)* any GCSE passes, *(c)* at least five GCSEs at A*-C and *(d)* at least five A*-C GCSEs, including English and Mathematics (2006 and 2007 only), in each year between 2002 and 2007 can be found in the following Statistical First Releases. Prior to 2002, pupil level characteristics information was not collected.

	Statistical First Release	*Table number*
2007	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/CrosstabsforSFR.xls	17
2006	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/Addition1V1.xls	32
2005	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000640/Addition2.xls	44
2004	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000564/Tables_26_30.xls	28 (5AC)
2003	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/table37-40.xls	40a (KS4 5AC)
2002	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/table49-52.xls	52a (KS4 5AC)

Further information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Schools: Sustainable Development

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to *(a)* require schools to follow more environmentally sustainable practices and *(b)* monitor levels of environmental sustainability in schools. [226739]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In May 2006, we published the National Framework for Sustainable schools and set out the ambition that every school becomes a sustainable school by 2020. This is a voluntary framework, rather than a requirement, and covers the broad range of sustainable development matters arising within the curriculum, the campus and the community.

In addition, the majority of schools will be required to display display energy certificates (DECs) providing information about energy use. Schools will also be included in the carbon reduction commitment, a mandatory emissions trading scheme, and be required to supply information on annual energy use to their local authority as part of the local authority count.

Science: Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what materials his Department prohibits the use of during science lessons in schools. [226034]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The DCSF does not specify teaching resources. There is a wide variety of resources available for use in schools and teachers are free to use their professional judgment to select appropriate materials for their science lessons. Any resource should be checked carefully before it is used in the classroom. The Government have issued guidance on materials that are inappropriate for use within science, specifically materials relating to creationism or intelligent design. This guidance is available to schools through teachernet at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk

With regard to physical materials, the Consortium of Local Education Authorities for the Provision of Science Services (CLEAPSS) publishes tables of materials which schools can and cannot use in science and suggests appropriate alternatives. Further information can be accessed at the CLEAPSS website at:

www.cleapss.org.uk

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which 10 local authorities had the highest proportion of secondary schools below the National Challenge target of 30 per cent. of children achieving five or more A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics, in *(a)* 1996, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and if he will make a statement; [224667]

(2) what assessment he has made of the reasons for some local authorities to have a large proportion of schools in the National Challenge, and if he will make a statement. [224665]

Jim Knight: The data requested for 1996 and 2007 are provided in the following table. Validated data for 2008 are not yet available.

	Percentage schools
Local authorities with highest proportion of low-attaining schools in 1996	
Islington	100
Tower Hamlets	100
Sandwell	95
Newham	93
Barnsley	93
Knowsley	91
Lambeth	90
Hackney	89
Haringey	89
Salford	89
Local authorities with highest proportion of low-attaining schools in 2007	
Bristol	63
Sandwell	60
Barnsley	57
Manchester	57
NE Lincolnshire	56

	Percentage schools
Nottingham	56
Kingston-on-Hull	50
Walsall	50
Knowsley	50
Telford and Wrekin	43

Local authority areas with the highest proportion of secondary schools where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils attained 5 higher grade GCSEs, including English and mathematics in *(a)* 1996 *(b)* 2007.

The comparisons between 1996 and 2007 indicate the substantial success of this Government's policies on school improvement. In 1996, over half of all secondary schools failed to reach the Government's benchmark for the National Challenge, while in 2007 that proportion had fallen to one fifth. This is also reflected in the substantially reduced percentages of low-attaining schools in those authorities with the highest proportions of such schools in 2007 compared with 1996.

The table also illustrates the effectiveness of targeted policies and programmes to improve school standards. In particular, the success of London Challenge is evident, since six of the ten authorities with the highest proportion of low attaining schools in 1996 were in London. In 2007 no London authority features in the list. One of the key principles of the National Challenge is to build more widely on the proven elements of London Challenge.

The 2007 list of authorities is dominated by those with relatively high levels of social deprivation where the potential barriers to learning outside schools are considerable.

The Government's policies, set out in the Children's Plan, are designed to remove such barriers, especially in relation to children's well-being and securing personalised support for all pupils. The National Challenge is a crucial element of the Children's Plan, since it will provide bespoke support to individual schools with relatively low attainment.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent changes he has made to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal Regulations; what further changes he plans; what the reasons are for making these changes; and if he will make a statement. [225986]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) transferred from the Department for Children, Schools and families (the then Department for Education and Skills) to the Ministry of Justice (the then Department for Constitutional Affairs) to form part of the Tribunals Service, an executive agency of that Department, with effect from 3 April 2006. Responsibility for the regulations governing SENDIST transferred at that time.

The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 contains provisions for existing tribunals, including SENDIST, to be transferred into a new two-tier structure of a First Tier Tribunal and an Upper Tribunal. It is proposed that SENDIST will move into a Health, Education and Social Care Chamber of the First Tier Tribunal. The Tribunals Service has consulted on the rules for the new Chamber. The Tribunals Procedures Committee is responsible for drafting and amending the rules in the light of this consultation. The overriding principle informing the drafting of the rules is that they must be able to deal with all cases justly and fairly.

Teachers: Foreigners

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reason foreign teachers able to teach in academy schools are not permitted to teach in other maintained schools. [225999]

Jim Knight: The requirements relating to foreign teacher qualifications are the same for academies and maintained schools.

Academies' funding agreements require all teachers to be qualified teachers within the meaning of the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003.

The Education (Specified Work and Registration) (England) Regulations 2003 allow overseas trained teachers (OTTs) to teach for four years at maintained schools or academies providing they have successfully completed a teacher training programme in a country outside the EEA and Switzerland which is recognised by the competent authority in that country. They must work towards qualified teacher status (QTS) during this period and OTTs are not allowed to teach beyond four years unless they have been awarded QTS.

Suitably qualified teachers from within the EEA and Switzerland are considered to have Qualified Teacher Status and so may teach in maintained schools and academies.

Teachers: Gender

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of teachers in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were male in each year since 1997. [225848]

Jim Knight: The proportion of male teachers in each year from 1997 to 2006 can be found in the following table:

Full-time regular qualified teachers in local authority maintained schools by phase and gender. Years: 1997-2006 teachers in service coverage: England

									Percentage	
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005[1]	2006[1]
Nursery and primary										
Men	17	17	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Women	83	83	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84
All teachers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Full-time regular qualified teachers in local authority maintained schools by phase and gender. Years: 1997-2006—teachers in service—coverage: England

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005[1]	2006[1]
										Percentage
Secondary										
Men	48	47	47	46	46	45	45	44	44	43
Women	52	53	53	54	54	55	55	56	56	57
All teachers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

[1] Provisional estimates.

Figures for 2007 will be published in November 2008. Further information can be found in table D2 of the "School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (Revised)" Statistical First Release accessible via the link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml.

Teachers: Qualifications

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers took a primary *(a)* B.Ed or BA and *(b)* PGCE with a language specialism in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [225835]

(2) how many teachers took *(a)* a PGCE, *(b)* a BEd or BA, *(c)* a SCITT and *(d)* another teacher training route at primary level with a specialism in (i) Mandarin, (ii) Japanese, (iii) Urdu, (iv) Italian, (v) French, (vi) Spanish and (vii) German in each of the last five years. [225837]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table and shows recruitment to undergraduate and postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) courses in primary modern languages for the last five years for which data are available. There are currently no primary ITT courses which specialise in Mandarin; Japanese or Urdu.

Over the last five years nearly 4,000 trainees in total graduated through ITT courses in primary modern languages. More trainees will be funded for these courses, including a projected 900 in 2008/09.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools is also piloting this year, in partnership with 10 ITT providers, additional routes to boost the primary work force teaching languages. A projected 3,000 trainees will go through these courses in 2008/09. Of these trainees, about one third are postgraduate trainees and two thirds are undergraduate trainees.

Number of new entrants on primary modern foreign language ITT courses between 2003/04 and 2007/08

	Total number of new entrants					
	Primary—French	*Primary—German*	*Primary—Italian*	*Primary—Spanish*	*Primary—Portuguese*	*Primary—total modern foreign languages*
2003/04						
Undergraduate	60	10	0	10	0	80
Postgraduate	280	30	0	50	0	360
Of which:						
School centred (SCITT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	330	40	0	60	0	430
2004/05						
Undergraduate	60	30	0	30	0	130
Postgraduate	290	60	20	60	0	440
Of which:						
School centred (SCITT)	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Total	360	90	20	100	0	570
2005/06						
Undergraduate	60	10	0	20	0	90
Postgraduate	320	70	30	140	10	570
of which:						
School centred (SCITT)	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Total	380	80	30	160	10	650
2006/07						
Undergraduate	70	20	0	20	0	110
Postgraduate	320	80	40	160	10	600
Of which:						
School centred (SCITT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	390	100	40	180	10	710

Number of new entrants on primary modern foreign language ITT courses between 2003/04 and 2007/08

Total number of new entrants

	Primary—French	Primary—German	Primary—Italian	Primary—Spanish	Primary—Portuguese	Primary—total modern foreign languages
2007/08[2]						
Undergraduate	90	10	0	30	0	120
Postgraduate	330	80	40	140	0	590
Of which:						
School centred (SCITT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	420	90	40	170	0	710

[1] Less than five.
[2] Figures for 2007/08 are provisional and are subject to change.
Notes:
1. Coverage includes universities and other HE institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes.
2. Figures include trainees who are re-sitting all or part of their ITT programme.
3. Figures trainees on courses of one to five year durations.
4. Figures are individually rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum to total.
Source:
TDA ITT Trainee Number Census

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of teachers teaching *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* chemistry and *(d)* biology who were awarded a golden hello in each year since 2000 were still in the teaching profession (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five years after receiving the award. [226050]

Jim Knight: The requested information could be produced only at a disproportionate cost.

Teachers: Vetting

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice the Department gives to local authorities on whether *(a)* head teachers, *(b)* teaching staff, *(c)* non-teaching school staff and *(d)* governors should be checked by the Criminal Records Bureau prior to commencing their duties or subsequent to so doing. [225427]

Beverley Hughes: Advice on this issue can be found in paragraphs 4.24, 4.25, and 4.58 of Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education which came into effect in January 2007. CRB disclosures for new appointments to head teacher, teaching and non teaching posts should be obtained before staff begin work. If this is not possible they should be obtained as soon as possible after appointment. Such appointments will be conditional upon receipt of a satisfactory CRB disclosure. We do recognise that occasionally there can be problems obtaining disclosures prior to starting work. Head teachers, principals and local authorities therefore have the option to allow people to start work while waiting for a disclosure to be processed. In such cases they need to ensure that the individual is appropriately supervised and that all other checks including a List 99 check have been completed. Disclosures are not required if the person is moving from a similar post in a school, local authority or FE college and there has not been a break in employment of more than three months. Governors are not required to have an enhanced disclosure unless their duties include regular work in the presence of children, or who care for, train, supervise or are in sole charge of children. Governors who do not require a disclosure are asked to sign a declaration confirming their suitability to fulfil their role. Governors will be required to register with the new mandatory work force vetting scheme administered by the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

Teachers: Working Hours

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of hours per week *(a)* teachers and *(b)* headteachers spent on administrative functions required by (i) the local education authority, (ii) his Department and (iii) other organisations in the most recent period for which figures are available. [226051]

Jim Knight: Estimates of the average number of hours per week spent by teachers and head teachers on individual activities are published by the Office of Manpower Economics (OME). The available information on average time spent on general administrative tasks is shown in the following table:

Average hours spent per week on general administrative support by full-time head teachers and classroom teachers

	Primary schools		Secondary schools	
	Head teacher	Classroom teacher	Head teacher	Classroom teacher
Keeping records on pupil performance (e.g. for National Curriculum school records, examination boards etc)	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.4
Keeping records or department records (excluding those on pupil performance	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Organising resources and premises (e.g. buildings, equipment, books, computers)	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.6
Displaying/mounting pupils' work or information for pupils	0.1	0.6		0.1
Setting up/tidying classroom, lab or other teaching area	0.2	2.0		0.9
Simple clerical activity (e.g. photocopying)	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4
Other kinds of administrative activities	1.8	0.3	2.5	0.6
Total admin	3.9	4.7	3.0	3.1
Total all working activities	55.2	52.2	59.5	49.9
Percentage of all working activities spent on admin	7	9	5	6

Source:
Teachers' Workloads Diary Survey, March 2008

These figures are based upon a sample survey of around 2,000 teachers in England and Wales during a single week in March 2008. The full report was published in August 2008 and can be found on the OME website at:

http://www.ome.uk.com/review.cfm?body=7

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department plans to take in response to the report by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child published on 3 October 2008. [225817]

Beverley Hughes: The UK Government welcome the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's Concluding Observations. While areas of difference with the Committee remain, we will give the UN Committee's recommendations the careful consideration they deserve.

Later this year we will report on progress against the commitments in the Children's Plan, published in December 2007, including our ambitions and strategies to tackle many of the issues the UN Committee has highlighted.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families is keen to work with key stakeholders, including children and young people, in taking forward the UN Committee's recommendations and has initiated a series of discussions on this.

Vocational Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in each local authority area are enrolled on an entry to employment programme. [225086]

Jim Knight: This information is not compiled for individual local authorities. Numbers of people that enrolled on an entry to employment programme in each Learning and Skills Council local office areas, which typically cover a number of local authorities, are given in the following table. This covers the 2007/08 academic year which are the latest data available.

	Number
Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham	1,196
Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton	1,634
Kent, Medway	1,736
Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire	[1]711
Surrey	111
Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex	428
Camden, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Southwark, Wandsworth, Westminster	1,758
Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Waltham Forest	863
Bromley, Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Richmond upon Thames, Sutton	893
Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Greenwich, Hackney, Havering, Lewisham, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets	1,759
Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow	757
Bedfordshire, Luton	620
Cambridgeshire, Peterborough	705
Essex, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock	1,513
Hertfordshire	630
Norfolk	795
Suffolk	634
Bournemouth, Poole, Dorset	742
Cornwall, Devon, Isles of Scilly, Plymouth, Torbay	1,208
Gloucestershire	[1]561
Somerset	[1]639
Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire	858
Swindon, Wiltshire	1,140
Birmingham, Solihull	1,760
Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton	1,674
Coventry, Warwickshire	1,036
Herefordshire, Worcestershire	713
Shropshire, Telford and The Wrekin	602
Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent	1,188
Derby, Derbyshire	1,531
Leicester, Leicestershire	769
Lincolnshire, Rutland	623
Northamptonshire	744
Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	913
East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire	1,242
York, North Yorkshire	408
Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield	2,623
Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield	3,398
Cheshire, Warrington	400
Cumbria	1,514
Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan	2,889
Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens, Wirral	3,392
Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancashire	2,085
Durham	849
Northumberland	451
Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton on Tees	1,469
Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland	2,174

[1] 2007/08 data are suspected to be flawed: figures given here are for 2006/07.

Young Offenders

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of people detained in young offenders' institutions *(a)* are from care home backgrounds, *(b)* are eligible for free school meals and *(c)* have been assessed as having special educational needs, broken down by type of special educational need. [225849]

Beverley Hughes: The information is as follows:

(a) Of the 59,500 young people looked after by local authorities at 31 March 2008, 130 were placed in a young offender institution (YOI) or prison. Data on the number of young people in YOIs who may have been looked after by local authorities earlier in their childhoods are not collected centrally.

(b) Data on the number of young people receiving free school meals prior to their entry to a YOI are not collected centrally.

(c) Data on the number of young people in YOIs assessed as having special educational needs are not collected centrally. The Learning and Skills Council collects information on the number of referrals of young people in YOIs to Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs). Returns from August 2007 to July 2008 indicate that 3,320 such referrals were made over the period.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Yeovil of 6 October 2008,

Official Report, column 524W, on young people: unemployment, how many and what proportion of individuals in each category have not been in education, employment or training for *(a)* up to six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between 12 and 24 months and *(d)* over 24 months. [227159]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold data to enable it to break down the figures supplied in the response to the hon. Member for Yeovil by length of time spent not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Young People's Learning Agency

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* set-up and *(b)* running costs of the Young People's Learning Agency will be, broken down by function of the Agency. [224567]

Jim Knight: This information is not yet available. My officials continue to work with LSC, local government and other stakeholders on the blueprint for the new agency, which we intend to publish further detail on later in the autumn. I am committed to a more learner focused commissioning process that enables local authorities to make informed integrated commissioning decisions to ensure that every young person's needs can be met in the most effective way.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department have responsibility for the checking and monitoring of the notification form required by the Abortion Act 1967 as amended, broken down by pay band; and if he will make a statement. [225672]

Dawn Primarolo: There are 13 authorised officials in the Department who, as part of their duties, have direct responsibility for the checking and monitoring of the abortion notification form HSA4; some of whom work full-time on this activity, with the more senior grades undertaking this as part of their overall range of responsibilities.

	Number
Administrative officer	3
Executive officer	1
Senior executive officer	2
Grade 7	2
Grade 6	2
Senior civil service level 1	2
Permanent secretary (chief medical officer)	1

I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 839W.

Academic Health Science Centres

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what criteria will be applied by academic health science centres to applications for Academic Foundation Trust status; [226011]

(2) what progress has been made in the establishment of academic health science centres; and if he will make a statement. [226013]

Mr. Bradshaw: "High Quality Care for All", the Government's 10-year vision for the national health service, set out the approach we intend to take to foster Academic Health Science Centres (AHSC) with the concentration of expertise and excellence that enables them to compete internationally.

We are working to define the criteria for AHSC, and these will cover excellence in patient care and education, and international excellence in biomedical and clinical research across a broad range of subjects, as well as the vision, partnership, strategy and approach to governance of the applicants for AHSC status.

An international panel of experts is currently being established, and it will assess applicants against the criteria. An open morning for potential applicants is being held on 15 October and further information will be posted on the Department's website as it becomes available at:

www.ournhs.nhs.uk/ahsc.

AHSC will bring together partners from the NHS and higher education, and the designation process will be open to both foundation trusts and non-foundation trusts alike. There are no plans to designate Academic Foundation Trusts as part of this process: the status conferred onto successful applicants will be that of AHSC.

The Government are committed to working with interested parties to assess what could be done to support the development of governance arrangements for AHSCs, including, if necessary, changes to legislation.

Autism: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of adults with autism in Wirral West constituency and *(b)* proportion of those people who are in paid employment. [226070]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of adults with autism in Wirral, West and the proportion of those who are in paid employment is not held centrally.

Berkeley Hospital

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the re-location of Berkeley hospital to the Cam/Dursley area. [225424]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. It is for the local national health service to determine how best to provide services for their local communities. My hon. Friend may wish to contact Jan Stubbings, chief executive of Gloucestershire primary care trust directly, in order for her to deal with the issues raised.

Blood: Finance

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the effect on NHS costs of use of pathogen inactivation for blood products. [225935]

Dawn Primarolo: Pathogen inactivation is currently carried out for a limited number of blood products, not all of which are centrally procured, and it is not therefore possible to estimate the costs to the NHS. However, the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs will be undertaking a comprehensive review of pathogen inactivation for blood products in 2009. This will include a full assessment of the costs of interventions and cost-benefit analysis.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy published in December 2007, if he will place in the Library the data from which the graphs on pages *(a)* 88, *(b)* 120 and *(c)* 121 were drawn. [224303]

Ann Keen: The data represented in the graph on page 88 of the Cancer Reform Strategy (Proportion of patients in England and Wales in the various age bands who received any active anti-cancer treatment) are set out in the following table. This table has been taken from page 34 (figure 8.4.10) of the National Lung Cancer Audit Report 2006. The table shows any active anti-cancer treatments received by lung cancer patients first seen in 2006 by age groups for all lung cancers, excluding small cell carcinoma.

Any anti-cancer treatment by age group—all lung cancers excluding small cell carcinoma

Age group	Count	Percentage
-54	718	62
55-59	799	61
60-64	1,101	59
65-69	1,329	55
70-74	1,321	50
75-79	1,287	41
80-84	643	28
85+	181	13
Total	7,379	46

The report is available on the NHS Information Centre's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/our-services/improving-patient-care/national-clinical-audit-support-programme-ncasp/audit-reports/lung-cancer.

A table setting out the data represented in the graph on page 120 of the Cancer Reform Strategy (Spending on cancer in 2006-07 as percentage total of primary care trust (PCT) programme spend) has been placed in the Library. The graph is based on programme budgeting data, collected as part of the annual accounts process. PCT level programme budgeting data are published annually in the form of an interactive Excel spreadsheet on the Department of Health's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Programmebudgeting/DH_075743.

A table setting out the data represented in the bar chart on page 121 of the Cancer Reform Strategy (Estimated cost per head of NICE-approved cancer drugs used in hospitals in January to June 2005, by cancer network) has been placed in the Library. This analysis was carried out by the Department and the calculations are based on information on volumes of NICE-approved cancer drugs dispensed (from IMS Health (an international consulting and data services company) and cancer network data) and the lowest list prices of those drugs.

Care Homes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department holds on the latest standard rate for local authority-provided residential care in each local authority area. [226303]

Phil Hope: None. Information on the fees negotiated by local authorities with providers of care is not collected centrally.

CJD: Death

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have died from *(a)* sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) and *(b)* variant CJD in the last 20 years. [226279]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on all Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) deaths in the United Kingdom collected since the establishment of the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit in 1990 is in the following table:

CJD in the United Kingdom (by calendar year)—data to 6 October 2008

Referrals of suspect CJD		*Deaths of definite and probable CJD*						
Year	*Referrals*	*Year*	*Sporadic*	*Iatrogenic*	*Familial*	*Gerstmann Straussler Scheinker Disease*	*Variant Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease*	*Total deaths*
1990	53	1990	28	5	0	0	0	33
1991	75	1991	32	1	3	0	0	36
1992	96	1992	45	2	5	1	0	53
1993	78	1993	37	4	3	2	0	46
1994	118	1994	53	1	4	3	0	61
1995	87	1995	35	4	2	3	3	47
1996	133	1996	40	4	2	4	10	60
1997	162	1997	60	6	4	1	10	81
1998	154	1998	63	3	3	2	18	89
1999	170	1999	62	6	2	0	15	85

CJD in the United Kingdom (by calendar year) - data to 6 October 2008

Referrals of suspect CJD		Deaths of definite and probable CJD						
Year	Referrals	Year	Sporadic	Iatrogenic	Familial	Gerstmann Straussler Scheinker Disease	Variant Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease	Total deaths
2000	178	2000	50	1	2	1	28	82
2001	179	2001	58	4	4	2	20	88
2002	163	2002	72	0	4	1	17	94
2003	162	2003	79	5	4	2	18	108
2004	114	2004	50	2	4	2	9	67
2005	124	2005	66	4	8	5	5	88
2006	110	2006	68	1	6	3	5	83
2007	115	2007	62	2	7	1	5	77
2008	99	2008	59	4	1	3	1	68
Total referrals	2,370	Total deaths	1,019	59	68	36	164	1,346

Source:
National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit
http://www.cjd.ed.ac.uk/

Community Care: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 7 July, *Official Report*, column 1137, on disabled people (budgets), what the publication date will be for the evaluation report of the Individual Budgets pilots. [227064]

Mr. Bradshaw: The evaluation report of the Individual Budgets pilots will be published shortly.

Departmental Telephone Services

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what agencies or units for which his Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers which charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency has derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225746]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* The Department's Executive agencies, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency have no 0845 or 0870 numbers for use by the public.

The Department has 24 arms length bodies, including the Executive agencies, and a number of national programmes e.g. NHS Employers. Local national health service organisations and general practitioner practices may have their own telephone numbers for the public. Information about telephone services for the public provided by these bodies is not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226896]

Mr. Bradshaw: As of 9 October 2008, the Department had answered 830 of 1,205 named day written parliamentary questions on the due date, in the current parliamentary session. This represents 68.9 per cent. answered on time.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent research he has undertaken into foetal alcohol syndrome; and if he will make a statement; [225636]

(2) how many babies were born with foetal alcohol syndrome in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [225637]

Dawn Primarolo: In May 2005 the Department's Policy Research programme commissioned a systematic review, by the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU), of national and international evidence on the effects of alcohol on the developing fetus and child. The review was published on the NPEU website in May 2006 and copies have been placed in the Library.

Due to difficulties in ascertaining the mother's alcohol intake during pregnancy, babies born with foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) can often be misdiagnosed with a more general learning disability. It is therefore not possible to provide accurate figures on the number of babies born with FAS.

Health Education: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* health promotion centres and *(b)* health promotion resource centres (i) opened and (ii) closed in each London borough in each of the last five years; and how many (A) health promotion centres and (B) health promotion resource centres there were in each borough at the latest date for which figures are available. [224970]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

Health: Private Finance Initiative

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the economic situation on the delivery of private finance initiative health projects; and if he will make a statement. [226566]

Mr. Bradshaw: Once a NHS body has signed a private finance initiative (PFI) contract, the financial terms of the loan raised by the private sector consortium counterparty are set and fixed. The overall cost of the project to the NHS will not change (unless the NHS wants to make a change to its own requirements). PFI contracts deal comprehensively with the possibility of early termination due to contractor default, including through insolvency, in order to protect the public interest.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in phasing out mixed sex wards in NHS hospitals in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* England. [222622]

Ann Keen: The Department continues to engage strategic health authorities about their plans to deliver a reduction in mixed sex accommodation, thus keeping levels to an absolute minimum, and where possible eliminating it.

Our guidance to the NHS has always required single sex accommodation rather than single sex wards, (the latter being where a group of patients are treated by the same team, who have the necessary specialist skills). Even within a mixed ward, good single sex accommodation can be achieved by using single rooms or single sex bays and toilet facilities.

Local plans have been made in the context of the 2008-09 Operating Framework for the NHS in England, which requires primary care trusts (PCTs) to review the current situation in all trusts and agree, publish and implement stretching local plans for improvement in delivering single sex accommodation, with identified timescales and monitoring mechanisms. The framework specifically requires that patient survey results, where available, be used as the monitoring mechanism. Plans in Bolton reflect the national approach to reducing levels of mixed sex accommodation as set out above, and more detail of such action is available from North West Strategic Health Authority.

Hospitals: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government have taken to assist hospitals with financial management. [224982]

Mr. Bradshaw: The continued development of an effective financial performance framework remains a key priority for the Department. In recent years there have been several initiatives aimed at delivering improvements in financial management in the national health service.

As part of this new financial performance framework the Department introduced a new working capital loans system in 2006-07. Instead of relying on brokerage as a source of funding or planned support, national health service trusts' working capital requirements must now be financed by loans agreed with the Department and recorded in individual accounts. National health service trusts now have to address financial problems head-on and take steps to ensure that they live within their means. Deficits remain where they occur, and are transparent in the trust's annual accounts.

The Department has also committed to publishing the financial position of every national health service organisation on a quarterly basis, which has increased the local accountability of national health service organisations due to a greater level scrutiny over their financial performance. As a result this has ensured that all organisations put sufficient focus on their financial performance and that there is greater involvement in meeting the financial objectives from non-finance professionals including clinicians and operational staff.

In order to assist national health service organisations, since 2007-08 the Department has issued Payment by Results tariffs and the Operating Framework earlier than was the case in previous years. This has given the national health service more time to prepare their financial plans, and as a result these financial plans have proven to be more robust with less variation between the plan, the in year forecasting and the final outturn.

In addition, the Department collects both year-to-date, and forecast information, on balance sheet, income and expenditure, and cash flow. Key indicators of financial performance are collected on a monthly basis and with strategic health authorities required to work with national health service organisations to provide explanations of any significant variations. In addition the Department also recognises the value of the Audit Commission's independent Auditor's Local Evaluations scores and is heavily involved in the performance management of organisations that do not meet minimum standards.

This increased local ownership, scrutiny, and clinical engagement within the finance function in the NHS has resulted in fewer national health service organisations recording deficits in their annual accounts. In 2005-06, prior to the introduction of this more transparent financial regime, 33 per cent. national health service organisations recorded a deficit in their annual accounts compared to only 3 per cent. of organisations recording a deficit in their 2007-08 annual accounts.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to assist hospitals to reduce debt. [224983]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department introduced a new working capital loans system in 2006-07. Instead of relying on brokerage as a source of funding or planned support, trust working capital requirements must now be financed by loans agreed with the Department and recorded in individual accounts. Organisations now have to address financial problems head-on and take steps to ensure that they live within their means. Deficits remain where they occur, and are transparent in final accounts at the year-end.

National health service trusts who traditionally relied on planned support are now able to focus on the areas that were causing them to overspend and look for ways to address them. Working with the strategic health authorities (SHAs), NHS trusts agree a financial plan at the beginning of the financial year that delivers a surplus, which is at least sufficient to meet any loan repayments the trust has, and thus reducing their overall debt.

As a result of introducing the new loans system, there were 17 NHS trusts where the financial challenges are such that the Department either could not give a loan because the trust could not afford to meet the repayments,

or where a loan was agreed, but the amount could only be repaid over a very extended time scale. Instead these trusts were advanced money as a short-term measure to cover their running costs while a rigorous review was conducted on their finances.

In the 2007-08 quarter 4 edition of "The Quarter", the Department announced that 10 of the original 17 trusts were no longer classified as financially challenged. This was a result of the trusts working extremely hard in conjunction with their SHAs and primary care trusts to improve their underlying financial position. As a result, they are now trading in balance and are able to produce sufficient surpluses going forward to operate as a sustainable organisation, both financially and in the provision of health care. All 10 of these organisations will have repaid their debt within five years.

This increased local ownership, scrutiny, and clinical engagement within the finance function in the NHS has resulted in fewer national health service organisations recording deficits in their annual accounts. In 2005-06, prior to the introduction of this more transparent financial regime, 33 per cent. national health service organisations recorded a deficit in their annual accounts compared to only 3 per cent. of organisations recording a deficit in their 2007-08 annual accounts.

Industrial Diseases

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost was of treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in each primary care trust in England in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [226107]

Ann Keen: The total expenditure for all obstructive airways disease is just over £537 million for 2006-07 (excluding drug costs). The figure for solely chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is not available centrally.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is of the estimate that 15 per cent. of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease will also have asthma, as stated in the Quality and Outcomes Framework guidance for the GMS contract for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [226108]

Ann Keen: Information is not held centrally on the number of people diagnosed with both chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma in each primary care trust in England.

The Quality and Outcomes Framework Expert Panel estimate that 15 per cent. of patients with COPD also have asthma on the basis of the following evidence:

asthma exists in up to 10 per cent. of the population and so at least that proportion of COPD patients will have asthma[1];

asthma is a risk factor for developing COPD so the rate is likely to be higher; and

unpublished data gathered by the panel based on complete practice review suggests that about 15 per cent. of patients with COPD also have asthma.

[1] Epidemiology work suffers from variable definition but Pearson M, Ayres JG, Sarno M, Massey D, Price D. Diagnosis of airway obstruction in primary care in the UK: the CADRE (COPD and Asthma Diagnostic/management Reassessment) programme International Journal of COPD 2006; 1: 435-443 found that 21 per cent. of patients with COPD were classified as having asthma as well after nurse completed spirometry and GP review and Bednarek M, Maciejewski J, Wozniak M, Kuca P, Zielinski J. Prevalence, severity and underdiagnosis of COPD in the primary care setting. Thorax. 2008 May;63(5):402-7 found 28 patients out of 155 meeting UK definition of COPD i.e. 18 per cent. and finally a review of COPD by Barnes P. Mechanisms in COPD Chest 2000; 117:10s-14s states a overlap of 10 per cent.

Industrial Diseases: Health Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting time for pulmonary rehabilitation was in each primary care trust in England in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [226109]

Ann Keen: This information is not available centrally.

Maternity Services

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 100 largest settled claims awarded under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts have been; how much was paid in each case; and which claims arose from maternity care. [225891]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is in the following table:

Settlement date	*Damages paid (£)*[1]	*Total damages (£)*[2]	*Injury*	*Speciality*
20 September 2002	8,987,903	12,400,000	Cardiac Arrest	Obstetrics
2 June 2008	3,078,900	7,582,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
20 March 2008	2,459,836	6,750,000	Brain Damage	Obstetrics
11 May 2006	6,632,844	6,632,844	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
24 January 2008	3,088,992	6,630,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
6 June 2008	2,281,902	6,466,923	Brain Damage	Casualty/A & E
7 March 2005	2,392,133	6,248,845	Brain Damage	Paediatric Surgery
30 June 2008	2,509,178	6,000,000	Brain Damage	Paediatrics
18 April 2008	1,493,470	5,800,000	Cerebral Palsy	Paediatrics
20 December 2006	5,799,919	5,799,919	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
13 December 2005	5,793,781	5,793,781	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
17 September 2008	910,257	5,786,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
13 February 2007	5,750,000	5,750,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
19 November 2007	2,257,794	5,750,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
10 November 2003	5,749,111	5,749,111	Brain Damage	General Medicine
19 May 2008	2,171,040	5,700,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics

Settlement date	Damages paid (£)[1]	Total damages (£)[2]	Injury	Speciality
5 June 2008	1,996,889	5,700,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
12 December 2003	5,620,290	5,620,290	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
2 July 2008	2,130,071	5,600,000	Brain Damage	Obstetrics
30 May 2006	5,555,000	5,555,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
27 June 2007	5,500,000	5,500,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
11 July 2008	0	5,500,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
23 July 2007	1,721,186	5,458,372	Stroke	Radiology
27 February 2008	2,062,740	5,400,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
3 June 2003	5,375,148	5,375,148	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
26 February 2007	1,174,552	5,260,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
8 December 2006	1,548,480	5,200,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
4 December 2007	2,396,362	5,200,000	Cerebral Palsy	Community Midwifery
27 February 2008	2,268,812	5,136,328	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
16 January 2008	5,007,137	5,008,000	Partial Paralysis	General Surgery
9 January 2007	5,000,000	5,000,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
21 February 2007	4,950,000	4,950,001	Tetraplegia/Quadraplegia	Cardio Surgery
2 May 2007	4,850,000	4,850,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
14 July 2006	4,817,988	4,817,988	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
19 July 2005	2,086,510	4,800,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
24 October 2006	4,750,000	4,750,000	Developmental Delay	Obstetrics/Gynaecology
14 May 2004	1,772,327	4,750,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
31 July 2008	1,714,560	4,713,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
14 March 2005	2,120,160	4,670,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
5 February 2008	2,091,657	4,667,159	Tetraplegia/Quadraplegia	Paediatrics
14 July 2008	1,245,663	4,639,040	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
11 June2008J	2,021,526	4,600,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
5 March 2007	1,840,081	4,509,148	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
3 September 2008	865,881	4,500,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
15 November 2005	2,033,759	4,500,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
24 February 2004	2,277,922	4,500,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
29 October 2007	1,946,888	4,500,000	Brain Damage	Obstetrics
25 March 2002	4,476,511	4,476,511	Brain Damage	General Surgery
6 May 2008	1,651,670	4,415,795	Brain Damage	Cardiology
31 October 2006	4,400,000	4,400,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
13 September 2007	1,474,266	4,400,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
16 November 2006	1,699,993	4,358,000	Brain Damage	General Medicine
17 February 2006	3,999,989	4,300,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
24 September 2004	4,250,000	4,250,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
10 April 2008	1,903,212	4,246,653	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
5 November 2007	4,200,000	4,200,000	Developmental Delay	Obstetrics
6 March 2008	1,856,349	4,200,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
5 May 2005	1,909,369	4,139,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
3 April 2008	1,818,246	4,135,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics/Gynaecology
17 May 2006	4,108,958	4,108,958	Brain Damage	Casualty/A & E
24 September 2008	0	4,100,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
27 May 2008	1,514,159	4,090,000	Cardiovascular Condition	Cardiology
28 July 2008	27,473	4,000,000	Brain Damage	Community Midwifery
10 November 2005	4,000,000	4,000,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
22 May 2006	4,000,000	4,000,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
15 June 2005	4,000,000	4,000,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
21 April 2008	2,011,505	4,000,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
14 September 2005	1,431,311	4,000,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
17 January 2005	1,590,527	4,000,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
28 March 2006	1,156,720	3,988,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
24 May 2007	1,369,799	3,971,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
23 December 2005	3,960,033	3,960,033	Brain Damage	Casualty/A & E
23 November 2004	2,722,867	3,900,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
22 April 2004	1,485,127	3,900,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
4 October 2001	2,783,532	3,878,816	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
13 February 2004	2,407,029	3,875,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
14 May 2008	1,043,726	3,850,000	Brain Damage	Paediatrics
10 May 2007	1,467,284	3,815,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
19 December 2006	1,586,719	3,800,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
3 May 2006	1,063,590	3,740,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
2 November 2004	3,739,174	3,739,174	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics

Settlement date	Damages paid (£)[1]	Total damages (£)[2]	Injury	Speciality
28 October 2003	3,720,107	3,720,107	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
14 January 2004	3,700,000	3,700,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
31 May 2005	833,143	3,700,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
21 March 2002	3,674,960	3,674,960	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
1 November 2006	479,773	3,650,000	Brain Damage	Casualty/A & E
16 January 2006	3,011,936	3,636,200	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
16 June 2008	1,746,303	3,627,378	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
30 November 2004	1,369,184	3,600,000	Brain Damage	General Surgery
31 July 2008	1,347,374	3,600,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
10 May 2007	2,879,494	3,600,000	Meningitis	Paediatrics
8 February 2007	1,383,996	3,600,000	Cerebral Palsy	Paediatrics
9 February 2006	3,512,906	3,512,906	Brain Damage	Obstetrics
12 March 2002	3,506,990	3,506,990	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
2 November 2004	1,639,139	3,506,385	Brain Damage	Casualty/A & E
2 April 2008	1,373,673	3,503,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
15 February 2008	1,252,872	3,500,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
30 May 2006	1,405,000	3,500,000	Brain Damage	Neurosurgery
6 March 2008	850,952	3,500,000	Multiple Injuries	Casualty/A & E
6 September 2007	1,259,876	3,500,000	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics

[1] Damages paid shows the amount of damages that has currently been paid against an award. [2] Total damages shows the estimated total to be paid where there are outstanding payments to be made, such as awards under a periodic payment order. *Source:* NHS Litigation Authority.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* consultant-led and *(b)* midwife-led maternity units there were in each region of England at the latest date for which figures are available. [225893]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, the Healthcare Commission published this information on their website in January 2008, following their review of national health service maternity services. The following table gives details of the number of consultant led and midwife led maternity units by strategic health authority (SHA).

SHA	Consultant led	Midwife led
East Midlands	11	4
East of England	18	8
London	30	9
North East	12	4
North West	28	7
South Central	13	14
South East Coast	16	3
Southwest	16	19
West Midlands	18	8
Yorkshire and Humber	19	6
Total	181	82

Medical Equipment

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish the results of the market surveys associated with his Department's review of the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services programme model; [226533]

(2) what data his Department used to calculate the contamination costs associated with the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services programme model. [226535]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services (TCEWS) Programme has developed a toolkit to enable local authorities (LAs) and their health partners to calculate the true cost of their decontamination and recycling. The data set covers volumes and values for items handled, staff involved, activities undertaken, transport and other overhead costs. This enables each LA and health partnership to understand what products, in their locality, are economically viable to decontaminate and refurbish.

With regard to the results of the market survey we have made details available on price benchmarking on the initial tariff on the following website

www.csed.csip.org.uk

A separate commercial price benchmarking exercise is being undertaken on behalf of the TCEWS. The results of this exercise will be compared to the initial tariff and a final national tariff will be published later this autumn. In addition, we will be publishing a report on a shadow running evaluation in December or early next year.

Medical Treatments: Radioactive Materials

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on nuclear medicine departments of the shortage of supply of isotopes due to producer unit shut-downs in Europe; and what steps are being taken to encourage the resumption of supply. [225885]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is currently a global shortage of medical isotopes, including molybdenum (Mo-99)/technetium (Tc-99m), which are used in many routine diagnostic nuclear imaging procedures such as heart imaging, bone scans and some cancer detection procedures. At a national level, the Department maintains a close oversight of the effect the shortage of supply of radio-isotopes is having on clinical procedures. For the duration of the shortage, we have put in place weekly situation reports from all national health service providers. For the most part, supplies are running at about 70 to 90 per cent. of normal and the NHS has made adaptations to optimise patient care. We are in close contact with all suppliers to the United Kingdom market and are monitoring their supply position. Through the European

Commission we are working with member states to ensure production and supply issues are being coordinated and that reactors are brought back in to production as soon as practicably possible.

Mentally Ill: Children

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Richmond Park of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1993W, on the mentally ill: children, if he will make it his policy to collect data on the number of children diagnosed with a mental health disorder. [227063]

Phil Hope: A survey carried out by Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 2004 on behalf of the Department collected data on the prevalence of mental disorders in children. A further study is under consideration.

NHS Direct: Contracts

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* the monetary value and *(b)* the projected duration is of all contracts most recently awarded to provide services linked to NHS Direct. [225322]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Direct has contracts with:

The Department to provide core services for the NHS Direct telephone line (0845 4647), NHS Direct Online and NHS Direct Interactive for' digital television[1]. The monetary value of this contract is £139,000,000 for 2008-09. The projected duration of this contract is one year from 1 April 2008;

East of England strategic health authority to provide services for The Appointments Line (choose and book) the monetary value of this contract is 7,300,000 for 2008-09[2]. The projected duration of this contract is three years from 1 April 2007; and

Other parts of the national health service to deliver specific and tailored services locally. We do not hold information on the value or duration of NHS Direct's contracts with other parts of the NHS. This information can be obtained from NHS Direct itself.

[1] Whilst NHS Direct is delivering the content of the 2008-09 contract for core services, the contract itself is currently being finalised by the Department.

[2] The value of The Appointments Line contract for 2008-09 is based on projected call volumes.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what cash savings he expects to be generated in the NHS drugs budget in each of the next three financial years. [226289]

Dawn Primarolo: The new Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme will save an estimated £300 million in both primary and secondary care in England each year over the next few years. In addition, we will continue to prompt greater use of generic medicines and the reduction of medicines wastage.

NHS: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he expects to publish the conclusions of his Department's consultation on top-up payments in the NHS. [226305]

Mr. Bradshaw: Professor Mike Richards will report to the Secretary of State at the end of October 2008, and findings will be published shortly afterwards.

NHS: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the financial position of *(a)* NHS Brent and *(b)* the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust; and if he will make a statement. [225492]

Mr. Bradshaw: The latest position, as published in the departmental publication 'The Quarter' (August 2008), shows that Brent PCT is forecasting a £12.3 million surplus in the 2008-09 financial year compared to a £1.7 million surplus in 2007-08 and a £25 million deficit in 2006-07. North West London Hospitals NHS Trust is forecasting a break even position for 2008-09, compared to a £1 million surplus in 2007-08 and a break even position in 2006-07. 'The Quarter' has been placed in the Library.

In addition both of these organisations failed to meet minimum standards in their 'Use of Resources' scores, as published by the Audit Commission in their "Auditor's Local Evaluation Scores 2007-08: Summary results for NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts," (October 2008). This document has been placed in the Library.

The Department will be focusing on all organisations who failed to meet these minimum standards to ensure an action plan is in place to address the issues very quickly.

Non-profit Making Associations: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what areas have received financial help for social enterprise initiatives; and how much has been granted in each case. [225866]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The following table lists the social enterprises by strategic health authority area, which have received financial assistance from the Department, including the amounts awarded.

Strategic Health Authority (SHA)	*Name of social enterprise organisation*	*Financial award (£)*
North East SHA	Delivering Connected Care in Hartlepool	197,905
	Developing Partners Project	82,739
	Dementia Care Partnership	497,957
	Sit n b Fit Ltd	54,000
	Large Productions	7,500
North West SHA	Alston Healthcare	670,500
	Salford Health Matters	126,200
	Social and Life Skills Agency (SALSA)	10,000
	Disability Stockport	481,660
	Sure Start Speke Ltd	7,500
	Blackpool Tiggers/My Town Tiggers	133,700
	X-Pert	6,552
Yorkshire and Humber SHA	City Healthcare Partnership	134,000

Strategic Health Authority (SHA)	Name of social enterprise organisation	Financial award (£)
	The Open Door	2,315,000
	ZEST	75,000
	Olive Branch Trust Ltd/CALEB	1,150,000
East Midlands SHA	Leicester Homeless Primary Care Service	45,970
	Principia Partners in Health	63,000
	Centre for Sport and Learning	184,080
West Midlands SHA	Apnee Sehat	199,568
	Health Equality Lifestyle Plan	134,000
	Willow Bank CIC	72,700
	Walsall Council and Walsall Teaching PCT	15,000
	Healthy Hearts Institute	10,000
East of England SHA	Healthy Living Centre Southend	555,000
	Lifestyle Solutions	705,000
	Workwise (Suffolk) Ltd	47,000
	MAGPAS	60,000
London SHA	Bromley By Bow	7,000
	Service User Led Direct Payments	442,000
	The Bridge	95,000
	Core Arts	400,000
	The City of London Migraine Clinic	140,000
	Roundabout	10,000
	Secure Healthcare	113,000
South East Coast	Lorica Learning Disabilities	195,789
	Surrey Community Provider Services	185,000
	Wellington Square Medical Centre	7,500
	ASIST Communities CIC	10,000
	Southampton Centre for Independent Living	94,000
South Central SHA	Milton Keynes Health and Social Care	87,000
	SCA Healthcare	823,100
	Milton Keynes Christian Foundation	10,000
	Luton Women's Aid	48,895
	Community Docs for All	62,120
	Devon Healthy Living CIC	82,500
South West SHA	Forest of Dean Health Enterprise Trust	101,500
	Aspects and Milestones Trust/Bristol Club House	50,000
	Age Concern Wiltshire	7,500
	BIBIC	750,000

Non-profit Making Associations: Forest of Dean

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what applications for financial support he has received from *(a)* Forest of Dean and *(b)* Stroud district councils for the pursuit of social enterprise schemes. [225865]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The Forest of Dean Health Care Enterprise applied for funding of £196,000 in round two of the Social Enterprise Investment Fund for 2008-09. Social Enterprise Stroud also made an application of £920,000 for the provision of services within the Stroud district council area.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding South East Essex Primary Care Trust is due to receive in the 2008-09 financial year under his Department's funding formula; [224654]

(2) how much funding South East Essex Primary Care Trust was supposed to have received under his Department's funding formula in the 2007-08 financial year; [224655]

(3) how much funding South East Essex Primary Care Trust received in the 2007-08 financial year; [224656]

(4) how much primary care trusts should have received under the Department's funding formulae for *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; [224657]

(5) how much was paid to primary care trusts under the distribution mechanisms in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [224658]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1911W.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to primary care trusts at the start of the financial year *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and how much was returned from primary care trusts to strategic health authorities at the end of each of those financial years. [226941]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of the revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are shown in the table.

Under the financial regime applied to the national health service surpluses are reported in the accounts of the individual organisations that generate them. Consequently, PCTs do not return surpluses to their strategic health authority. Surpluses are not lost to the NHS, but are available to be carried forward for use in future years.

£000

PCT	2006-07 allocation	2007-08 allocation
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	410,731	449,115
Barking and Dagenham PCT	240,688	267,023
Barnet PCT	425,930	460,640
Barnsley PCT	319,935	353,531
Bassetlaw PCT	130,267	144,874
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	206,371	224,569
Bedfordshire PCT	434,053	483,955
Berkshire East Teaching PCT	429,771	467,641
Berkshire West PCT	477,657	521,310
Bexley PCT	258,661	281,904

PCT	2006-07 allocation	£000 2007-08 allocation
Birmingham East and North PCT	551,721	606,916
Blackburn with Darwen Teaching PCT	207,706	227,152
Blackpool PCT	213,766	232,537
Bolton PCT	355,301	388,481
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	418,982	455,410
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	655,461	713,986
Brent Teaching PCT	407,601	440,836
Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT	349,706	381,965
Bristol Teaching PCT	526,977	571,181
Bromley PCT	373,188	403,632
Buckinghamshire PCT	524,765	573,490
Bury PCT	226,689	247,864
Calderdale PCT	254,621	275,396
Cambridgeshire PCT	622,584	685,883
Camden PCT	368,783	398,848
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	522,824	571,132
Central Lancashire PCT	556,430	607,500
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	380,906	416,671
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	645,556	710,827
County Durham PCT	711,825	784,201
Coventry Teaching PCT	425,221	469,451
Croydon PCT	424,028	458,633
Cumbria PCT	632,547	689,160
Darlington PCT	136,390	147,509
Derby City PCT	329,454	361,115
Derbyshire County PCT	841,060	922,913
Devon PCT	871,595	956,903
Doncaster PCT	401,609	439,103
Dorset PCT	467,804	512,900
Dudley PCT	373,359	407,037
Ealing PCT	444,899	481,157
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	608,574	667,728
East Lancashire PCT	506,236	553,338
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	345,739	380,204
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	421,307	458,443
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	917,451	1,013,331
Enfield PCT	351,514	384,190
Gateshead PCT	286,689	313,317
Gloucestershire PCT	669,670	731,208
Great Yarmouth and Waveney teaching PCT	286,026	319,752
Greenwich Teaching PCT	344,632	372,379
Halton and St. Helens PCT	434,697	474,176
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	265,137	286,377
Hampshire PCT	1,404,036	1,531,884
Haringey Teaching PCT	346,339	375,205
Harrow PCT	255,367	276,176
Hartlepool PCT	131,905	144,243
Hastings and Rother PCT	248,194	270,154
Havering PCT	303,017	331,028
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	410,557	454,255
Herefordshire PCT	202,786	226,439
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	288,702	316,327

PCT	2006-07 allocation	£000 2007-08 allocation
Hillingdon PCT	308,041	333,169
Hounslow PCT	298,309	322,634
Hull Teaching PCT	371,301	401,457
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	185,563	204,994
Islington PCT	336,943	363,928
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	275,175	297,613
Kingston PCT	202,727	219,238
Kirklees PCT	485,093	527,512
Knowsley PCT	243,375	268,697
Lambeth PCT	467,660	505,097
Leeds PCT	952,025	1,032,366
Leicester City Teaching PCT	386,947	424,964
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	663,407	730,485
Lewisham PCT	397,785	429,633
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	829,240	922,602
Liverpool PCT	733,222	803,354
Luton Teaching PCT	223,068	247,703
Manchester PCT	735,995	815,430
Medway Teaching PCT	304,301	340,701
Mid Essex PCT	365,484	405,722
Middlesbrough PCT	208,845	228,340
Milton Keynes PCT	247,043	277,919
Newcastle PCT	386,439	417,413
Newham PCT	415,179	454,046
Norfolk PCT	839,936	932,449
North East Essex PCT	381,624	422,921
North East Lincolnshire PCT	210,372	229,114
North Lancashire PCT	418,760	456,349
North Lincolnshire PCT	190,441	208,972
North Somerset PCT	225,201	251,427
North Staffordshire PCT	255,312	278,040
North Tees PCT	228,058	253,743
North Tyneside PCT	273,205	298,390
North Yorkshire and York PCT	870,019	947,379
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	730,405	817,249
Northumberland Care Trust	399,055	434,542
Nottingham City PCT	396,017	430,928
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	766,008	839,335
Oldham PCT	304,145	332,588
Oxfordshire PCT	663,385	727,498
Peterborough PCT	200,369	226,047
Plymouth Teaching PCT	320,442	348,433
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	232,225	253,929
Redbridge PCT	292,512	317,506
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	189,438	206,163
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	224,520	242,789
Rotherham PCT	330,233	361,022
Salford Teaching PCT	346,814	374,615
Sandwell PCT	422,253	461,941
Sefton PCT	389,658	424,393
Sheffield PCT	721,813	783,833
Shropshire County PCT	331,198	363,336
Solihull Care Trust	236,950	259,370
Somerset PCT	598,119	661,858
South Birmingham PCT	467,293	510,764
South East Essex PCT	405,020	441,775
South Gloucestershire PCT	250,189	275,190
South Staffordshire PCT	653,701	716,139
South Tyneside PCT	222,991	243,791

PCT	2006-07 allocation	£000 2007-08 allocation
South West Essex Teaching PCT	473,017	525,622
Southampton City PCT	295,218	323,249
Southwark PCT	401,542	433,721
Stockport PCT	349,861	379,343
Stoke on Trent Teaching PCT	360,415	392,763
Suffolk PCT	659,034	726,691
Sunderland Teaching PCT	413,283	449,010
Surrey PCT	1,234,594	1,335,260
Sutton and Merton PCT	459,723	497,211
Swindon PCT	223,813	243,943
Tameside and Glossop PCT	308,593	337,310
Telford and Wrekin PCT	187,621	209,334
Torbay Care Trust	185,688	207,397
Tower Hamlets PCT	360,074	395,521
Trafford PCT	275,442	299,535
Wakefield District PCT	444,548	489,186
Walsall Teaching PCT	342,196	374,066
Waltham Forest PCT	320,806	347,335
Wandsworth PCT	388,415	420,027
Warrington PCT	237,103	259,050
Warwickshire PCT	592,423	652,206
West Cheshire PCT	303,849	332,116
West Essex PCT	313,574	340,399
West Hertfordshire PCT	627,084	679,655
West Kent PCT	740,523	810,316
West Sussex Teaching PCT	952,453	1,034,023
Westminster PCT	367,029	396,902
Wiltshire PCT	490,847	539,616
Wirral PCT	459,538	500,617
Wolverhampton City PCT	326,781	360,656
Worcestershire PCT	617,658	679,281
England	64,309,595	70,354,697

Social Services: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the circumstances in which properties may have to be sold to pay for the residential care costs of people who require such care in cases where relatives are resident in such properties. [226725]

Phil Hope: The Government have taken steps to help people avoid having to sell their homes during their lifetime to pay for residential care. Since October 2001, local councils have been able to enter into a deferred payments agreement with people about to enter residential care. This allows people with property, but without income and other assets sufficient to meet their assessed financial contribution to the cost of residential care, to have a legal charge placed on their property to meet any shortfall. The local council then meets the cost of the person's residential care and reclaims the debt from the person's estate when their affairs are wound up. This gives people more options for meeting care home fees and avoids the need for their property to be sold during their lifetime.

Local authorities (LAs) assess a person's ability to pay charges for residential care using the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992 and statutory guidance, entitled the Charges for Residential Accommodation Guide (CRAG). The guidance helps LAs to understand the charging regulations and ensures a consistent approach to charging. Copies of the Regulations and CRAG are available in the Library.

In assessing a person's contribution towards the cost of their residential care, the value of their property is not always taken into account. It is disregarded where it continues to be occupied by the resident's spouse, partner or another relative who is over 60 or who is incapacitated, a lone parent with a dependent child who is the resident's estranged or divorced partner or a child under 16 whom the resident is liable to maintain.

Surgery: Private Sector

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were referred from private hospitals to NHS hospitals following complications after operations in each of the last four years; and what the estimated cost was to the NHS of caring for patients who required further treatment following operations at private hospitals in each of the last four years. [225542]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Adam Smith Institute

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many projects the Adam Smith Institute is undertaking for his Department; and how many contracts his Department has awarded to the Institute in the last five years. [224817]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not awarded any contracts to the Adam Smith Institute in the last five years.

However, we have issued a number of contracts to Adam Smith International Ltd., which is a separate, self-financing commercial organisation. Details of all centrally-let contracts since January 2005 are published on DFID's website

www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the *(a)* recent redesign and *(b)* subsequent maintenance of his Department's website cost. [226110]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We are currently reviewing and transforming our web presence. The first phase of the project was to 'refresh' the design of the site in September which included a new home page. It cost £13,600 for the design and build of the new pages. The next phase of the project, to be incorporated next year, will be to develop a fully featured website, new publishing system and robust hosting.

We do not have a contract to maintain our site. This work is done in house.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what records his Department keeps on the *(a)* number and *(b)* demographics of people using its website. [226111]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We currently generate monthly reports on the number of visitors to our site. We do not monitor their demographics.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what forecasts his Department has made regarding the number of people using the Discovery Zone section of its website; and how it plans to monitor the usage of this section. [226112]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: As part of the overall web development project we are testing the site with user groups. We identified a need for more engaging content to serve families and young children. This zone is a first step to meeting their needs. We will continue our user testing with this group to monitor reactions to this part of the site.

From 16 September 2008 (the date Discovery Zone was launched) to 8 October 2008 there have been 1,348 page views from 993 unique users.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to address the effects of climate change on developing countries. [224984]

Mr. Michael Foster: Lifting people out of poverty decreases vulnerability to climate change, so all of the UK's poverty reduction work has a role in addressing the effect of climate change. The UK is also working to prevent the most serious potential impacts by pushing for an ambitious new global agreement to tackle climate change and helping developing countries prepare for international negotiations.

Around one third of the UK's £800 million contribution to the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds will support the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience. This will support a number of countries to address the impacts of climate change through their development plans and budgets. The UK is also one of the largest donors, contributing £20 million, to the UN Special Funds which are focused on helping developing countries adapt to climate change.

We are also addressing climate impacts through DFID's country programmes. For example, a new £75 million programme will support Bangladesh's efforts to protect its people further from impacts such as rising sea-levels, water-logged land and increased salinity. DFID is already spending £50 million to help improve the livelihoods of 32,000 families in Bangladesh by raising homes above 1 in 100 year flood level.

Developing Countries: Poverty

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to make the UK public aware of the incidence and consequences of poverty globally. [224985]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department and its Ministers take every opportunity to raise awareness of issues around global poverty. The Department for International Development (DFID) has had an active programme of building awareness about global poverty issues and their consequences for over 10 years. This programme includes work with schools and the statutory education sector, youth and community groups, the private sector, trade unions and NGOs—non-governmental organisations—as well as communicating with the wider UK public.

The activities are diverse and far reaching, broadly including information dissemination, the development of programmes to build deeper levels of understanding of the issues, as well as creating opportunities for individuals to become actively engaged in development.

Further information is available on the DFID website: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/

Developing Countries: Private Sector

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria are used to select consultants engaged by his Department to advise on projects to take overseas public utilities into private ownership. [224818]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides specialist technical assistance to partner Governments using organisations selected for their particular expertise. Technical assistance contracts have been awarded to many different types of organisation active in development, from NGOs to academic institutions to consultancy firms, and the decision on who to contract is made on a case-by-case basis based on technical and commercial evaluation criteria to ensure development impact and value for money.

Developing Countries: Water Supply

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on the private ownership of water services in other countries. [224815]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) policy is that we respond—where we can—to requests from developing countries for assistance to help improve the efficiency of their water utilities. Usually this involves DFID providing support to public bodies. In some cases, where the developing country government has a policy for participation of the private sector in service delivery, DFID may be asked for support in working out how best this may be done. Often this will take the form of support to improving regulatory frameworks to ensure quality of service and increase access for poor people.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many consultancy contracts his Department has awarded in respect of projects to take overseas water utilities into private ownership; and for which countries. [224824]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Department for International Development (DFID) support to international private sector participation in the water and sanitation sector has been limited. The last independent review indicated that this amounted to no more than 5 per cent. of the total spend in the water and sanitation sector. Countries

where DFID has supported private sector engagement include Ghana, Tanzania, Guyana, Sierra Leone, Uganda and South Africa.

Details of all centrally-let DFID contracts since January 2005 are available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement

Development Banks

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made on developing guidance with the multilateral development banks to screen all development investments for climate risks; and if he will make a statement. [225361]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting the Asian Development Bank and the Inter American Development Bank to develop a mechanism for assessing the implications of climate change for their new investments in the Asia and Pacific and Latin America regions. We are also working with the World Bank Group which has developed ADAPT (Assessment and Design for Adaptation to Climate Change: A Planning Tool), for screening its programmes and assessing the threats and opportunities arising from climate variability and change. Its scope is being widened to cover the range of relevant sectors and regions. DFID has also been developing climate risk assessment tools for screening its own programmes and sharing lessons from this process with other donors, including the multilateral development banks (MDBs).

Around one third of the UK's £800 million contribution to the Climate Investment Funds will support the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR). To be implemented by the MDBs, the PPCR will support a number of countries to fully integrate climate resilience into their development plans and budgets. The programme seeks to demonstrate how the MDBs can provide scaled-up support to countries to achieve this integrated approach.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in assisting multilateral development banks to adopt and implement clean energy investment frameworks; and if he will make a statement. [225362]

Mr. Michael Foster: In each of the relevant multilateral development banks, the executive boards have approved clean energy investment frameworks and associated work plans covering implementation. The UK has committed over £15 million to help the banks undertake analytical work on climate change mitigation and adaptation issues, to study the economics of climate change, and to take forward a number of low carbon growth strategies.

In July 2008 at the G8 summit in Hokkaido, the development banks submitted a report outlining what they have done, individually and collectively, to make progress on the climate change agenda. The report describes each of the banks' overall strategies and gives examples of specific programmes approved. In it, the banks set out an investment programme of public and private resources of over $100 billion between their financial years 2008-10 under the clean energy investment framework. This includes scaled-up investment in energy access and low carbon projects. They also committed to scaling up adaptation investments.

DFID Alumni Association

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on the DFID Alumni Association in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* staff costs, *(b)* website maintenance costs, *(c)* the cost of organised events and *(d)* other costs. [226113]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Staff costs to develop, launch and administer the association (in terms of staff salaries) were approximately £5,000 in 2006-07 and £8,000 in 2007-08. The website maintenance costs are the costs of staff time to administer the website, which are included in the aforementioned salary figures. Other costs have been the cost of the launch of the association, which totalled £733.

Guyana: Overseas Aid

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of Guyana's offer to the UK to conserve rainforest in exchange for sustainable development funds; and if he will make a statement. [224622]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government think Guyana's proposal is very interesting and is working with the Guyanese to develop it further. DFID has committed £100,000 towards work to develop a low carbon investment prospectus and implementation plan for Guyana, this will include an assessment of the cost of conserving Guyana's rainforests. In parallel, Guyana has secured funding under the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Fund, to which the UK has contributed £15 million, to prepare a detailed strategy for how they could participate in an international mechanism to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation. Guyana is also included in the Caribbean Regional Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change. We will build on the above, as well as on the findings of the Eliasch Review into climate change and the financing of forests, in further discussion.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the transparency of its international aid. [225114]

Mr. Michael Foster: The 2006 International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act commits the Department for International Development (DFID) to report annually to Parliament on the effectiveness of both multilateral and bilateral aid in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) monitors and publishes DFID's performance against the international targets agreed in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The 2008 monitoring survey shows that, three years ahead of the 2010 deadline, we have met or exceeded seven of the 10 targets, and are very close to meeting another. We are on track to meet

the remaining two targets by 2010. A recent independent evaluation of the results has been published by the DAC at

http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/19/9/40888983.pdf.

Additionally, in September 2008, DFID published the UK Progress Report on Aid Effectiveness, showing that the UK is delivering on its promises to make aid work harder for poor people. This is available on the DFID website

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/aid-effectiveness.pdf.

The UK is also working closely with the EU to improve the transparency of aid. At the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF) in September 2008, donors and partner countries committed to make aid more transparent and the UK launched the International Aid Transparency Initiative. This was endorsed by 13 other donors, including the World Bank, UNDP, EC and Germany. It will enable partner Governments and their citizens—those who ultimately benefit from aid—to plan for and make the best use of aid. It will also help citizens hold donors and Governments to account for their promises.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the monitoring of aid given to ensure it is spent as intended. [225115]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides assurance that:

The funds were paid to the intended recipient;

The funds have been used for the purposes agreed;

The use of the funds has been audited.

This is a key part of DFID's broader responsibility for ensuring that spending represents value for money.

Recent steps taken to improve monitoring on aid expenditure include:

The introduction of ARIES (Activities Reporting Information E-System) has a major impact on DFID's financial accounting activities. ARIES will strengthen reporting controls to ensure that aid spend is properly monitored.

DFID's internal guidance for staff about the evidence required to ensure that funds have been used for the purposes agreed has been strengthened. Also, a new health check list is available for staff administering existing budget support programmes. This includes points to consider for demonstrating that funds have been spent as intended.

An updated review plan supported by regular audits by DFID's Internal Audit Department and the National Audit Office, focussing on key areas of aid delivery, has been agreed.

Piracy: Gulf of Aden

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of piracy in the Gulf of Aden on the delivery of humanitarian aid in the region over the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [225601]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: 2008 has witnessed an increase of pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden with 44 incidents reported between January and July alone. Attacks are becoming more regular and pirates are venturing further off shore which is interfering with major shipping channels. Humanitarian aid to Somalia was directly affected earlier this year as the United Nations World Food Programme (UN WFP) were unable to find contractors willing to deliver humanitarian relief to Mogadishu. The International Community has since recognised the need to provide naval escorts for WFP ships and no WFP contracted ship has been targeted. Since 18 August, Canadian Navy escorts have assisted in the delivery of 36,360 metric tons of food aid to Mogadishu.

Sudan: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the Government plan to provide to voter education in preparation for the elections and referendum in Sudan. [225883]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Voter education will be critical to the success of elections in Sudan. Over £11 million has been put aside to support the elections and referendum, and we expect a significant portion of this to support voter education.

As the National Elections Commission that will oversee voter education in Sudan is yet to be established, the bulk of proposed UK Government support have not yet been programmed. However, since December 2007, the UK Government have supported an initial programme of broad civic education through the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, an international non-governmental organisation with extensive networks of local partners. We will also provide funding to the UN to launch a programme of preparatory support to the elections process. The UK Government intend to contribute an initial £1.5 million to this programme, which will fund a range of activities related to voter education: supporting information campaigns, training of key actors such as civil society organisations and electoral assistance staff, development of materials and the provision of small grants for local initiatives.

Sudan: Security

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of the security situation in north Darfur on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to refugees in the region. [225874]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: North Darfur has experienced an upturn in violence between Government and rebel forces since September which has hindered the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The UN World Food Programme report that 134,000 people throughout Darfur did not receive food aid in August due to insecurity. When data becomes available, this number is expected to rise to 450,000 for September, partly as a result of two NGOs temporarily suspending operations in rural areas of North Darfur. Tens of thousands of people are reported to have been displaced by recent military campaigns. Although the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has assessed some new displacements, access is still restricted.

The UN humanitarian co-ordinator, Ameerah Haq, urged both parties to cease hostilities immediately and requested humanitarian access to the affected areas in North Darfur.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many British humanitarian workers in Darfur have been subject to attacks in the last 12 months; and what proposals are under consideration to improve security for humanitarian workers in the region. [226073]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that during 2008, 17 humanitarian workers have been threatened, 24 injured, 14 physically or sexually assaulted, 170 abducted and 11 killed. OCHA does not disaggregate these incidents according to nationality.

Several actions are under way to improve the security of humanitarian workers. In response to the deteriorating security and as a precautionary measure before the announcement of the International Criminal Court's indictment of President Bashir, the UN increased its security posture to phase IV in July. This triggered tighter security procedures and restricts activities to essential humanitarian work. Linked to this, an evacuation plan has been drawn up for all relocatable humanitarian workers in Darfur. The World Food Programme has also negotiated a commitment from the Government for military escorts every 48 hours on major supply routes into Darfur, and we are pressing the Government to honour this.

Tanzania: Water Supply

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which consultants were involved in the Biwater project to take water services in Tanzania into private ownership; how many of them have received *(a)* funding and *(b)* contracts from his Department; and what the value of the funding or contracts was in each case. [224813]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The privatisation of water services for the city of Dar es Salaam was undertaken by the Government of Tanzania with support from the World Bank and was not therefore directly supported or funded by DFID.

DFID supported the Government of Tanzania's Parastatal Sector Reform Commission (PSRC) in the divestiture of publicly-owned companies in Tanzania. As part of this support, DFID awarded contracts on behalf of PSRC to the following companies to undertake various pieces of work in the area of water and sanitations:

Date	*Contractor*	*Purpose of work*	*Total value (£000)*
2001 -	Adam Smith International	Conducting a water privatisation and regulatory study tour	55
2001 -	Clifford-Chance	Provision of legal advice to Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA)	[1]50
1997	John D. Davies	Provision of short-term advice on achieving an appropriate private sector participation arrangement for DAWASA	31
November 1997	GIBB East Africa Ltd.	Facilitation of a DAWASA workshop on privatisation	16
	Total	—	252

[1] Part of the contract was denominated in US$

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was paid from the public purse in respect of the Biwater project to take Tanzanian water services into private ownership. [224814]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The privatisation of water services for the city of Dar es Salaam was undertaken by the Government of Tanzania with support from the World Bank. The World Bank (along with the European Investment Bank and African Development Bank) provided $160 million for the project. The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £252,000 in technical assistance to the water and sanitation sector as part of an overall programme of support for the divestiture of publicly owned companies in Tanzania. DFID did not fund the transfer of water services into the private sector.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the outcome against objectives of the Biwater project to take water services in Tanzania into private ownership. [224816]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Government of Tanzania terminated Biwater's contract for failure to deliver. It is clear from this that private sector organisations selected to provide water and sanitation services must have the capacity and skills to deliver these services in a way that meets the expectations of governments and more importantly the people who receive or would like to receive the service. This stresses the need for rigorous assessment by partner governments and donors of potential private sector organisations bidding to deliver water and sanitation services. The Department for International Development (DFID) has ensured that these lessons are taken on and applied by those working on these issues.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to review provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 relating to temporary event notices; and if he will make a statement. [225729]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We currently have no plans to review the temporary event notice (TEN) regime. Over 100,000 TENs were given in 2006-s07 and we are not aware of any evidence to suggest widespread problems or issues that cannot be dealt with through the restrictions in the regime or other legislation relating to issues such as crime and noise nuisance. We are, however, looking at how we can improve application processes, including those relating to TENs—for example, by allowing licensing authorities to exercise flexibility over the ten day notice period and ensuring that the notice period for the police occurs on working days.

Architecture: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the Engaging Places online resource to be operational. [225468]

Barbara Follett: I expect the Engaging Places online resource:

www.engagingplaces.org.uk

to be operational in January 2009.

Art Works: Exports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 21-23W, on art works: exports, what the estimated value of each object referred to in the answer was prior to its sale. [226312]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the published annual reports of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest, copies of which are available in the House Library. The case histories for each item considered by the Reviewing Committee detail the fair matching price as agreed by the Committee at each respective hearing.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 21-23W, on art works: exports, how much each of the objects referred to in the answer was sold for. [226313]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* It is not possible to supply the requested information. It is not the role of DCMS or the Reviewing Committee to attempt to monitor sales of cultural objects throughout the world. Nor is it necessarily the case that export abroad of a cultural object always involves a sale.

Buildings At Risk Register

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many buildings were *(a)* added to and *(b)* removed from the Buildings At Risk Register in each year since 2000. [224962]

Andy Burnham: The information requested, as provided by English Heritage, is set out in the table.

	Number of buildings removed from Buildings at Risk Register	*Number of buildings added to Buildings at Risk Register*
2007-08	57	69
2006-07	88	52
2005-06	94	68
2004-05	91	58
2003-04	94	66
2002-03	114	98
2001-02	114	94
2000-01	109	102
1999-2000	108	141

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* English Heritage has made of the cost to heritage attractions of new (i) regulations and (ii) legislation in each of the last three years. [225159]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* New Government regulation and legislation usually goes through the impact assessment process. Impact assessments are listed in command papers regularly published by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) each year, which are available in the House Library or from BERR's website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/bre/policy/scrutinisingnewregulations/Regulatory%20Reporting/page44948.html

Impact assessments consider the costs and benefits of proposed new regulation especially for those directly affected. It is usual that key stakeholders across the relevant sectors, which include non-departmental public bodies, are consulted on the identified costs and expected impact in advance of the regulation or legislation being made.

Cultural Heritage: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) when he expects his Department to complete the evidence base for its sectors in relation to the objective of increasing private giving to cultural and sporting organisations as set out in the Department's Corporate Plan; [224774]

(2) when he expects his Department to complete the evidence base for its sectors in relation to the objective of increasing private giving to cultural and sporting organisations as set out in his Department's Corporate Plan. [225696]

Andy Burnham: Our preliminary assessment of the evidence base in relation to philanthropy was completed in July. It is clear that there are gaps in the data and evidence that we will seek to fill as we continue to develop our policy and promote higher levels of private giving across our sectors.

Cultural Relations

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many enlarged partial agreements his Department made in the financial year 2007-08; and what the *(a)* subject and *(b)* cost to his Department of each such agreement was. [224838]

Andy Burnham: The Department represents UK interests in two enlarged partial agreements of the Council of Europe. These are:

The European Audiovisual Observatory. Our contribution for financial year 2007-08 was £146,721.20.

The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS). Our contribution for financial year 2007-08 was £55,533 .

Both figures include the costs of currency conversion into Euros.

Culture Online: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on Culture Online in each year since 2000-01. [225757]

Barbara Follett: Expenditure on Culture Online in each year since it was established is set out in the table. Culture Online closed at the end of March 2007.

	£
2000-01	640,382
2001-02	1,019236
2002-03	265,379
2003-04	1,439,034
2004-05	3,893,000
2005-06	2,657,000
2006-07	4,205,000
2007-08	72,312

Culture Online: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff were employed to work on Culture Online in each year since 2002-03; and how many will be employed during 2008-09. [225689]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is set out in the table. Figures are not available for 2002-03.

Culture Online staff numbers

	Staff
2003-04	11
2004-05	11
2005-06	7
2006-07	3
2007-08	0

Culture Online ceased to be part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in March 2007 and therefore does not figure in any future plans for the Department.

Departmental Ceremonies

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* ceremonial overheads and *(b)* ceremonial services in each of the last five years; and if he will break down these costs by subheading. [225688]

Andy Burnham: The costs recorded for ceremonial overheads in each financial year were as follows:

	Costs (£)
2003-04	173,000
2004-05	212,000
2005-06	294,000
2006-07	433,000
2007-08	331,000

It is not possible to disaggregate the costs of ceremonial services costs from these figures.

Departmental Land

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the funds received by his Department as part of the sale of the land to the north of the British Library have yet been allocated; and what plans he has to make use of any unallocated funds. [224764]

Andy Burnham: All funds retained by the Department from of the sale of the "Land to the North" have been fully allocated.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Arts Council England has made of the cost to arts establishments and artists of new (i) regulations and (ii) legislation in each of the last three years; [224775]

(2) what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Sport England has made of the cost to sports clubs of new (i) regulations and (ii) legislation in each of the last three years; [224776]

(3) what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Arts Council England has made of the cost to arts establishments and artists of new (i) regulations and (ii) legislation in each of the last three years; [224956]

(4) what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Sport England has made of the cost to sports clubs of new (i) regulations and (ii) legislation in each of the last three years. [224957]

Andy Burnham: New Government regulation and legislation usually goes through the impact assessment process. Impact assessments are listed in command papers regularly published by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) each year, which are available in the House Library or from BERR's website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/bre/policy/scrutinisingnewregulations/Regulatory%20Reporting/page44948.html

Impact assessments consider the costs and benefits of proposed new regulation especially for those directly affected. It is usual that key stakeholders across the relevant sectors, which include non-departmental public bodies, are consulted on the identified costs and expected impact in advance of the regulation or legislation being made.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 856-58W, on departmental NDPBs, what funding has been agreed with *(a)* the Royal Parks Agency and *(b)* each of his Department's NDPBs for the period 2008-11. [225071]

Barbara Follett: Cash funding for the Royal Parks is as follows:

			£000
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
The Royal Parks	18,724	18,424	18,124

Grant in aid funding for NDPBs is as follows:

	2008-09	2009-10	£000 2010-11
British Museum plus Cultural Diplomacy	50,875	52,028	54,222
Natural History Museum	51,195	51,080	50,321
Imperial War Museum	23,588	24,163	24,752
National Gallery	26,869	27,287	29,222
National Maritime Museum	19,313	18,983	19,415
National Museums Liverpool	22,488	22,965	24,555
National Portrait Gallery	7,693	7,744	7,879
National Museum of Science and Industry	39,158	40,608	41,583
Tate Gallery	46,784	57,663	58,565
Victoria and Albert Museum	44,234	44,761	45,902
Wallace Collection	4,228	4,301	4,377
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	4,803	4,987	5,095
Sir John Soane's Museum	1,276	1,181	1,211
Horniman Museum	4,757	4,566	4,679
Geffrye Museum	1,748	1,791	1,836
Royal Armouries	8,264	8,474	8,689
British Library	106,904	109,464	112,094
Public Lending Right	7,432	7,582	7,682
Museums Libraries and Archives Council	13,971	12,971	11,471
Arts Council of England	430,905	445,005	468,505
Sport England	133,163	130,163	128,163
UK Sports Council	50,551	60,551	63,551
Football Licensing Authority	1,321	1,261	1,261
English Heritage	128,858	130,858	135,258
Churches Conservation Trust	3,100	3,100	3,100
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	4,690	4,690	4,690
National Heritage Memorial Fund	10,000	10,000	10,000
Royal Household	16,107	16,107	16,107
Visit Britain	47,900	45,400	40,900
UK Film Council	37,464	42,134	36,521
Welsh Fourth Channel (S4C)	98,112	100,042	102,655
The Gambling Commission	500	500	500
Olympic Delivery Authority	1,118,000	1,014,000	1,044,300

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 856-58W, on departmental NDPBs, on which date *(a)* the Royal Parks Agency and *(b)* each of his Department's NDPBs finalised its most recent funding agreement with his Department. [225074]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is in the following table. The Royal Parks Agency is an Executive Agency and does not have a Funding Agreement with the Department.

Name of NDPB	*Date funding agreement finalised (2008)*
British Library	15 May
British Museum	6 June
Culture East Midlands	3 June
Culture North East	29 May
Culture North West	22 May
Culture South East	2 July
Culture South West	27 May
Culture West Midlands	22 June
Football Licensing Authority	May[1]
Gambling Commission	14 April
Geffrye Museum	17 June
Horniman Museum	9 June
Imperial War Museum	5 June
Living East	3 June
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	6 June
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	14 May
National Gallery	3 July
National Maritime Museum	12 June
National Museum of Science and Industry	28 July
National Museums Liverpool	17 June
National Portrait Gallery	3 July
Natural History Museum	17 June
Public Lending Right	9 April
Royal Armouries	11 June
Sir John Soane's Museum	9 June
Tate	3 July
UK Film Council	1 April
UK Sport	24 June
Victoria and Albert Museum	6 June
Visit Britain	12 June
Wallace Collection	24 July
Yorkshire Culture	28 May

[1] Date not known

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what additional funding *(a)* Sport England, *(b)* Arts Council England, *(c)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and *(d)* English Heritage will receive in relation to the new regional responsibilities announced by his Department on 2 July 2008. [225473]

Andy Burnham: My Department has allocated £400,000 to these bodies in 2009-10, and a further £200,000 in 2010-11.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate *(a)* Sport England, *(b)* Arts Council England, *(c)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and *(d)* English Heritage have made of the cost of implementing the new regional responsibilities announced by his Department on 2 July 2008. [225474]

Andy Burnham: These bodies are currently developing the new regional arrangements and we do not yet have an estimate of their costs.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects each of the new regional culture and sport alliances announced by his Department on 2 July 2008 to come into operation; and when he expects each of the new non-departmental public body alliances to meet for the first time. [225476]

Andy Burnham: Regional partners are currently working on plans for the new regional arrangements which will come into effect by 31 March 2009 at the latest. The chief executives of the four NDPBs leading the new arrangements (Arts Council England, Museums, Libraries and Archives, English Heritage and Sport England) met for the first time on 28 July, and subsequently on 29 September, to review the plans and agree a way forward.

Departmental Property

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent valuation has been made of the property portfolios of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Royal Parks, *(c)* English Heritage and *(d)* Arts Council England. [225687]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows.

DCMS

As of 31 March 2008, the net book value of the land and buildings on the core departmental estate was £8.46 million. Freehold land is restated to current value every five years using professional valuations in accordance with FRS15. This was last valued professionally as at 31 March 2006 at £140,000. The remainder of the net book value is leasehold improvements stated at cost.

Royal Parks

The legal title of buildings within the Royal Parks remains with the Sovereign, but they are treated as being owned by the Royal Parks and are listed in their accounts as fixed assets. The value of lodges within the parks, which are used as dwellings, is based on their terms of occupation or on their replacement cost if this is lower. The buildings are subject to revaluation under a five-year rolling programme.

During financial year 2007-08, 20 per cent. of the properties within the Royal Parks estate were subject to physical revaluation, in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Appraisal and Valuation Manual. At the same time, dwellings were revalued on the basis of actual rent receivable. The result was a net book value of £45.53 million.

English Heritage

All land and buildings held on the balance sheet are subject to a full professional valuation every five years. A full revaluation was undertaken as at 31 March 2006 by professionally qualified internal valuers and external valuers in accordance with Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors guidance. Interim valuations are carried out only where a material change in value is suspected. An interim valuation was completed during the year ended 31 March 2008. The net book value as at 31 March 2008 was £52.59 million.

Arts Council England

As of 31 March 2008, the net book value of the Arts Council England property portfolio (both freehold and leasehold) was £7.70 million. This includes one freehold property that was professionally valued in 31 March 2005 in accordance with Art Council accounting procedures giving an open market value of £600,000. The remainder of the net book value relates to leasehold and freehold improvements.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [221956]

Andy Burnham: The Department has spent the following on external public relations and marketing companies included in COI's PR Framework in the last 36 months:

	Company	£
2006-07	Harrison Cowley	84,600
2008	Edelman	87,300

The Royal Parks Agency has spent £23,611 with Barkers over the past 36 months.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects his Department to publish its *(a)* Gambling Study, *(b)* Scoping Survey of Culture and Sport in the UK, *(c)* Tourism Productivity Survey, *(d)* report on World Heritage Status and *(e)* report on Drivers of Tourism Demand. [224954]

Andy Burnham: The exact date of publication for these documents is still to be confirmed but the Department is committed to releasing them shortly.

Digital Broadcasting

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Digital UK on ensuring that work on transmitters and the effect it has on television reception is publicised; and if he will make a statement. [224727]

Andy Burnham: I have had no specific discussions with Digital UK or Ofcom on this issue. However, broadcasters (through Ofcom's code of practice on transition issues) are required to take the necessary steps to keep any potential disruption to viewers to a minimum during the transmitter upgrade programme for digital switchover. Where disruption is unavoidable, broadcasters are required to provide viewers with information about the likely extent of temporary disruption.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on digital switchover; and if he will make a statement. [225876]

Andy Burnham: Digital switchover is on course, The first full region to switch will be Border, starting with the Selkirk transmitter and its 11 relays, where the process begins on 6 November.

Ofcom's digital television update for the second quarter of 2008 showed that digital TV was in 87.9 per cent. of UK households. In addition, for the same quarter the Ofcom/Digital UK tracker indicated that 89 per cent. of UK households were aware of digital switchover. A successful switch was completed in Copeland almost a year ago.

English Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many visits there were to English Heritage properties in each year since 1997. [224543]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is outlined in the following table and has been provided by English Heritage. The table relates to visits to staffed properties. In addition to these figures, English Heritage estimates that between 5 million and 6 million visits take place a year to its un-staffed sites.

	Number of visits to staffed English Heritage properties (million)
2007-08	5.3
2006-07	5.3
2005-06	4.7
2004-05	5.3
2003-04	5.5
2002-03	5.5
2001-02	5.4
2000-01	5.7
1999-00	6.0
1998-99	5.9
1997-98	5.9

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of English Heritage in the last 12 months. [224544]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

Secretary of State

Date	*English Heritage representatives*	*Purpose*
2007		
15 October	Simon Thurley	Meeting Minister for the Arts and the Secretary of State (JP)
16 October	Simon Thurley	Meeting (JP)
2008		
21 January	Chairman	Meeting (JP)
11 March	Chairman	Meeting new Secretary of State (AB)
14 March	Simon Thurley, Henry Owen-John and Adam Menuge	Visit to Liverpool at EH's invitation (AB)

JP = James Purnell
AB = Andy Burnham

Minster for the Arts

Date	*English Heritage representatives*	*Purpose*
2007		
8 October	Simon Thurley and Peter Beacham	Meeting
15 October	Simon Thurley	Meeting Minister for the Arts and the Secretary of State
15 October	Simon Thurley	Meeting—separate from above
21 November	Simon Thurley	Meeting about Stonehenge
5 December	Chairman and Commissioners	Christmas lunch
10 December	Chairman	Stonehenge Project Board
2008		
26 February	Peter Beacham	Meeting DCMS to discuss 20th century listing
11 March	Simon Thurley and Chairman	Meeting new Secretary of State
17 March	Visitor operations staff	Meeting to see activities in the Furness area

Minster for the Arts

Date	*English Heritage representatives*	*Purpose*
18 March	Simon Thurley	Meeting
24 April	Simon Thurley	Meeting
30 April	Chairman	Meeting
21 May	Simon Thurley	Meeting
6 June	Gemma Abercrombie and Emily Gee	Visit to Robin Hood Gardens site and meeting
11 June	Chairman	Meeting
1 July	Simon Thurley	Meeting
15 July	Chairman	Stonehenge consultation launch

English Heritage: Educational Visits

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what target was set by English Heritage for providing free education visits in each of the last five years. [224545]

Barbara Follett: The information requested, as provided by English Heritage, is set out in the following table.

	Target
2007-08	593,200
2006-07	564,800
2005-06	536,400
2004-05	507,000
2003-04	413,000

English Heritage agreed the targets for the number of free education visits to its sites with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The targets are set out in English Heritage's funding agreements. English Heritage made a commitment to achieving 650,000 free educational visits by 2010 in its five-year strategy, Making the Past Part of Our Future, published in 2005.

English Heritage: Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many properties managed by English Heritage are required to display an energy certificate; and how many did so at the latest date for which figures are available. [224971]

Barbara Follett: Following a comprehensive survey of its estate, English Heritage currently estimates that there are approximately 15 properties that require an energy certificate. It has put a programme in place to ensure they are all completed. To date, one property is displaying its certificate and a second is nearing completion. English Heritage estimates that the programme will be completed by December.

English Heritage: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much English Heritage spent on acquiring historic artefacts in each of the last five years. [224972]

Barbara Follett: The information requested, as provided by English Heritage, is set out in the table.

Amount spent by English Heritage on acquiring historic artefacts

	£
2007-08	512,000
2006-07	116,000
2005-06	82,000
2004-05	115,000
2003-04	153,000

English Heritage: Surveys

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps English Heritage has taken in response to the findings in its most recent annual staff survey. [224976]

Barbara Follett: Information from English Heritage is that it undertook a full staff survey during spring 2007. It had already begun work on a reward, recognition and retention strategy and the survey findings informed its development. An action plan was prepared and key steps taken so far include:

the creation of pay proposals to deal with pay anomalies, to make English Heritage more flexible as an organisation and to align it more clearly with the external market; and

the creation of a new management development programme to provide flexible training for all English Heritage managers.

Invest to Save Budget

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department's non-departmental public bodies received from Invest to Save budgets in each of the last three years. [225678]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows how much the Department's non-departmental public bodies received from Invest to Save Budgets in the last three years.

Invest to save project

Round 8	£
2005-06	0
2006-07	3,436,000
2007-08	1,102,700

Listed Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many recommendations for listing of properties were passed to his Department by English Heritage in each of the last five years; and how many such buildings were listed as a result. [225523]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* The information requested is set out in the table. It should be noted that not all recommendations made will receive a decision within the same year. The figures shown for the numbers of buildings listed in each year will include some cases recommended by English Heritage within that same year and some cases recommended within previous years. In addition, since 2005, a small number of listings may have resulted from a review of an earlier decision.

	Number of English Heritage recommendations for listing	*Number of buildings listed*
2003-04	729	483
2004-05	491	536
2005-06	425	379
2006-07	353	399
2007-08	564	477

National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the funding provided to his Department for its joint research budget by each of its non-departmental public bodies comes from National Lottery income. [225284]

Andy Burnham: The total contribution of NDPB, national lottery-sourced funding to the Joint Research Budget is £19,800 per annum, or 6.6 per cent. of the NDPB contribution. This comes entirely from Sport England.

The Joint Research Budget is jointly owned by DCMS and the contributing NDPBs and covers research into public participation in cultural and sporting activities supported both by Exchequer and lottery funding.

Overseas Visitors

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many overseas visitors arrived in the UK in each quarter since 2005. [225465]

Barbara Follett: The table shows the number of overseas visits to the UK since 2005 by quarter. Figures for 2007 and 2008 are provisional.

Visits to the UK by overseas residents

	Quarter	*Visits[1] (Thousand)*
2005	Q1	6,172
	Q2	7,868
	Q3	8,858
	Q4	7,072
2006	Q1	6,351
	Q2	8,476
	Q3	10,296
	Q4	7,591
2007[2]	Q1	6,873
	Q2	8,693
	Q3	9,584
	Q4	7,407
2008[2]	Q1	7,193

[1] Not seasonally adjusted.
[2] Provisional figures.
Source:
International Passenger Survey - ONS

Religious Buildings: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* English Heritage and *(b)* the Heritage Lottery Fund provided to places of worship in each of the last five years. [225295]

Barbara Follett: The information requested, as provided by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, is set out in the following table.

Funding provided to places of worship

£

	English Heritage		
	Repair grants for places of worship	*Repair grants for cathedrals*	*Heritage Lottery Fund*
2003-04	8,760,769	2,691,000	48,817,073
2004-05	6,699,659	997,000	20,626,540
2005-06	6,536,237	999,000	21,676,817
2006-07	6,705,447	816,000	26,831,108
2007-08	6,750,402	1,292,500	41,901,444

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has made available to *(a)* the established church and *(b)* non-established churches for the repair of (i) buildings and (ii) listed buildings in their ownership. [225419]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage has two main grant schemes for the benefit of places of worship in use. The repair grants for places of worship in England (RGPOW) is operated in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund. Offers are specifically for urgent repairs to listed places of worship.

	Church of England (£)	*Number of offers*	*Other faiths and denominations (£)*	*Number of offers*
2003-04	24,018,002	281	2,147,000	23
2004-05	18,388,801	216	3,244,000	35
2005-06	19,118,821	194	2,370,000	20
2006-07	19,726,001	211	2,293,001	20
2007-08	20,344,355	223	1,878,000	12
Total	101,595,980	1125	11,932,001	110

Offers to the non-established church were made to Christian congregations other than those of the Church of England (Roman Catholic, Baptist, URC, Methodist, etc) and include nine offers totalling £1,003,000 to congregations of other faiths one Buddhist, seven Jewish and one Sikh.

English Heritage also operates a grant scheme for Church of England and Roman Catholic cathedrals (cathedrals of other denominations are eligible under the RGPOW scheme). Eligible cathedrals must be either listed or within a conservation area. In addition to repairs, grants can be offered towards: archaeological surveys, fire detection systems, improved access for maintenance, metric surveys, access audits, archive conservation and conservation plans. Since 2006-07, the scheme has been jointly funded by English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation.

£

	Church of England cathedrals	*Roman Catholic cathedrals*
2003-04	2,674,000	17,000
2004-05	890,000	107,000
2005-06	929,000	70,000
2006-07	770,000	46,000
2007-08	1,107,500	185,000
Total	6,370,500	425,000

Sport England: Public Appointments

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to appoint a new Chair of Sport England; whether the remit and responsibilities associated with the post will differ from those of the former Chair; and what remuneration the new Chair will receive. [224498]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* I expect to appoint a new chair of Sport England early in the new year and the post will be re-advertised shortly.

The new chair will be responsible for delivering the new Sport England strategy, which focuses on ensuring that a substantial and growing number of people from across the community play sport, and that talented people from all backgrounds are identified early, nurtured and have the opportunity to progress to the elite level. The strategy will deliver one million more people doing sport by 2012-13. The remuneration for the chair will be in the region of £45,000 a year.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what analysis he has made of the elite sports which field teams to represent England at international level and receive no funds from UK Sport; and what estimate he has made of the number of people who are actively involved in each sport. [225014]

Andy Burnham: UK Sport's mission is to lead sport in the UK to world class success, primarily by working with partner sporting organisations to deliver medals at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

A number of sports field teams to represent England in international competitions and do not receive funding from UK Sport. These include professional sports such as football, cricket, rugby union and rugby league; Commonwealth Games sports such as bowls, netball, squash and ten pin bowling, and other sports such as lacrosse and angling.

The number of people who are actively involved in sports is measured through DCMS's Taking Part survey and Sport England's Active People survey.

Statues

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what statues his Department is responsible for; what the cost of maintenance of these statues was in 2007-08; and what valuation has been made of the statues. [225457]

Barbara Follett: The Secretary of State has responsibilities for the approval of new statues within London, but the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is not responsible for the upkeep of any public statues. The Royal Parks has responsibility for a large number of structures within its estate. These include the following statues:

Abraham Lincoln
George Canning
General Wolfe
William IV
Eagle Squadron Memorial

FDR Roosevelt
Achilles
Boy and Dolphin
Diana the Huntress
Epstein Statue (Pan) (Family of Man)
Four Winds Fountain (Joy of Life)
Household Cavalry Memorial
Little Nell
Albert Memorial
Jenner Statue
Peter Pan
Physical Energy
Queen Victoria (St. James's Park)
Two Baby Bears
Constance Fountain
George V
Bronze Eagle
Goetze Fountain (Triton)
Hylas and Nymph
Lost Bow
Mighty Hunter
Shepherdess
The Awakening
The Boy and Frog
Artillery Memorial
Australia Pillars
The Boy
Cooke Memorial
Duke of York Column
Field Marshall Roberts
George VI
Guards Memorial
Kitchener
Mountbatten
Queen Victoria Memorial (Kensington Gardens)
Royal Marines
West Africa Pillar
Wolseley
Burghers of Calais
Emmeline Pankhurst
Arethusa

These are heritage assets and given nil value for accounting purposes. The Royal Parks does not have disaggregated information on the cost of maintaining its statues.

Swimming: Concessions

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on participation rates of providing free access to swimming to those aged *(a)* over 60 and *(b)* under 16 years; and what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of implementing free swimming for (i) over 60s and (ii) under 16s. [223572]

Andy Burnham: Swimming is the most popular physical activity for the over 60s with 7 per cent. taking part at least once a month. It is also the second most popular sport for children aged 11 to 16, with 38 per cent. participating in and out of school.

However, we know that cost can be a barrier to participation to some people. By introducing free swimming, we are removing this barrier and giving people the opportunity to increase the amount of exercise they take. Experience from existing schemes leads us to believe that our free swimming initiative will increase participation rates further.

In each of 2009-10 and 2010-11, £15 million is available to local authorities to provide free swimming to those aged 60 or over and £25 million is available to local authorities to provide free swimming to those aged 16 or under. This is a challenge initiative—building on many existing schemes at local level—that local authorities can opt into should they choose to. We want to help more local authorities to offer free swimming for over 60s and under 16s in support of our objective of getting two million more people active by the time of the 2012 Games in London.

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will give a breakdown by main budget heading of the £140 million funding announced on 6 June 2008 to encourage local authorities to offer free swimming. [224770]

Andy Burnham: In each of 2009-10 and 2010-11, a total of £15 million has been made available to local authorities to offer free swimming to those aged 60 or over. Similarly, £25 million has been offered to provide free swimming to those aged 16 or under. In terms of capital funding, £10 million has been made available this year to those authorities who opt in to both elements of the scheme. These authorities may also bid from a £25 million capital fund available in each of 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average local authority entitlement is as part of the £140 million fund announced on 6 June 2008 to encourage local authorities to offer free swimming; and what percentage of the total cost is expected to be borne by local authorities. [224771]

Andy Burnham: There is no new entitlement to free swimming. Eligible local authorities may choose to opt in to offering free swimming as we have defined it in our letter to chief executives, dated 29 July 2008, which I circulated to all hon. Members at the time.

In each of 2009-10 and 2010-11, a total of £15 million has been made available to local authorities to offer free swimming to those aged 60 or over. Similarly, £25 million has been offered to provide free swimming to those aged 16 or under.

Grant allocations have been offered to those of the eligible 354 local authorities who choose to provide free swimming, according to a formula based on the size of their local populations for the relevant age groups.

Those authorities who opt in to both elements of the scheme will receive a pro rata population-based share of the £10 million capital has been made available this year. These authorities may also then bid from a £25 million capital fund available in each of 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid to the BBC from television licence revenue in each year since 1997. [225458]

Andy Burnham: The television licence fee revenue received into the Department is surrendered to the Consolidated Fund. The value of licence receipts, less a small deduction for the Department's costs of administering the licence fee, is passed on to the BBC through grant in aid from DCMS. Since 1997, the grant in aid has been as follows:

	BBC grant in aid (£000)
2007-08[1]	2,856,110
2006-07	2,739,006
2005-06	2,624,277
2004-05	2,501,970
2003-04	2,372,527
2002-03	2,277,789
2001-02	2,171,382
2000-01	2,086,326
1999-2000	2,270,801
1998-99	2,146,304
1997-98	1,979,000

[1] The accounting treatment of licence fee revenue income was changed in 2007-08 following discussion with the National Audit Office. For the first time in 2007-08, the income figure takes into account timing delays between the collection of licence fee revenue by the BBC's agents and payment to DCMS.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was received in television licence revenue in each year since 1997. [225459]

Andy Burnham: The following amounts were received in television licence fee revenue between 1997 and 2008:

	BBC licence fee receipt £000
2007-08	2,859,002
2006-07	2,739,160
2005-06	2,624,468
2004-05	2,502,111
2003-04	2,372,686
2002-03	2,277,941
2001-02	2,171,515
2000-01	2,086,475
1999-00	2,270,921
1998-99	2,146,416
1997-98	2,010,880

UK Film Council: Recruitment

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by the UK Film Council on advertising for recruitment in each of the last five years. [225471]

Barbara Follett: The UK Film Council has provided the following information about their advertising costs for recruitment. These figures include all internal executive posts, but not public appointments. Where figures are higher, in particular 2006-2007, this represents a higher staff turnover during these years.

	£
2003-04	29,990
2004-05	29,298
2005-06	53,518
2006-07	101,478
2007-08	65,135

World Creative Business Conference

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been paid to *(a)* Edelman and *(b)* Acclaim for services relating to the World Creative Business Conference; and how much he expects to pay to each during 2008-09. [224963]

Barbara Follett: The Department has allocated £1 million towards the running of the World Creative Business Conference in each of the next three years, including 2008-09. This covers the provision of specialist expertise and several other costs, such as venue hire.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the World Creative Business Conference will take place; where it will be held; and how much the event is estimated to cost. [224964]

Andy Burnham: We expect to make a formal announcement of the date and location of the World Creative Business Conference soon. The final cost of the event will depend on a number of factors, including the number of attendees. However, the Department has allocated £1 million towards the running of the World Creative Business Conference in each of the next three years, including 2008-09.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many invitations to the World Creative Business Conference have been sent out; and how many invitees have so far replied. [225072]

Andy Burnham: No invitations have yet been sent. It is expected that formal registration for the event will begin next spring.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 15 October 2008

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what recent discussions the Church Commissioners have had with HM Treasury on funding for the repair and upkeep of church buildings; and if he will make a statement. [226693]

Sir Stuart Bell: Representatives of the Church of England have had constructive discussions with Ministers and officials from the Treasury, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Office of the Third Sector and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. These interdepartmental discussions are ongoing and I would hope to be able to report the outcome before the Christmas recess.

By way of a statement, the overall aim is to examine the contribution made by church buildings of all faiths to the agendas of Departments and to identify available funding from national, regional and local government sources. From there, the working group is looking at ways of ensuring that these funding streams are fully accessible to churches.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information he holds on which EU countries currently have bluetongue epidemics; and what strain is prevalent in each case. [225539]

Jane Kennedy: Currently, there are several bluetongue serotypes circulating in different parts of the EU, including serotypes 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 16. A map of the current protection zones in place for each serotype can be found on the European Commission website.

Of most importance to the UK are bluetongue serotypes 1 and 8. Bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8) was first found in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Western Germany and in parts of North Eastern France in summer/autumn 2006. In 2007, Northern Europe experienced a dramatic increase of new cases in all existing infected areas, and cases numbered into the tens of thousands as disease steadily spread across Europe.

In 2008, the number of new cases of BTV-8 in many EU member states has declined, but depending on weather conditions, it is possible that there may be further outbreaks this year. BTV-8 continues to be highly prevalent in France (with over 16,000 new cases in 2008) and Germany (over 1,300 new cases). BTV-1 is prevalent in Spain (over 1,000 new cases) and France (over 2,600 cases).

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220727]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, the figures are as follows:

	Tonnes	*Percentage from recycled sources*
Photocopier paper		
2006-07	547.9	97
2007-08	601.11	98
Printer paper		
2006-07	318.7	100
2007-08	281.7	100

DEFRA's sustainable procurement policy is adherence to the highest standards of recycled paper. DEFRA currently buys paper that contains 75 per cent. recycled fibre for coated paper used in publications and for office paper (copier) and publications using uncoated paper, there is a 100 per cent. recycled fibre target. The only exceptions to these standards are where recycled paper is not available for a specific process e.g. some coloured stocks, security paper and non-carbon reproduction (NCR). Meeting the targets owes much to the fact that a considerable proportion of DEFRA's printed publications are commissioned from a single central business unit using a centrally negotiated contract for recycled paper. The increase in photocopier usage is accounted for by print jobs related to cattle statements, herd statements, herd movements, single payments scheme and animal health disease outbreaks.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215211]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the last 24 months, DEFRA spent £26,031.55 on subscriptions for magazines and newspapers. It is not possible to give a monthly breakdown as the amount varies depending on the length of the subscription.

Floods

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what critical infrastructure has been identified as vulnerable to flooding; and what the location and level of risk of each is. [224221]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* The following table shows the number of critical facilities sites at risk of flooding. The Environment Agency is unable to give the location of these sites for national security reasons.

	Number of sites in flood zone (flood risk probability)			
Asset	*Significant (1 in75)*	*Moderate (1 in 75-200)*	*Low (1 in 200 or fewer)*	*Total in all three zones*
Water and sewerage (Number)	737	223	179	1,145
Electricity, generation and distribution (Number)	2,215	2,263	3,818	8,423
Gas, works and distribution (Number)	5	8	10	23
Telephone exchanges (Number)	82	67	86	241
Motorways (Kilometres)	139	104	132	382
A roads (Kilometres)	884	553	809	2,278
Railway lines (Kilometres)	1,470	750	948	3,213

Note:
Taken from an Environment Agency study showing infrastructure overlain on flood risk maps (river and sea floodplains).

International Panel on Climate Change: Correspondence

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of correspondence between Dr. John Mitchell, Chief Scientist at the Hadley Centre, and the International Panel on Climate Change occurring in the last 12 months. [225013]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

The Meteorological Office will review correspondence between Professor Mitchell and the IPCC in the last 12 months. Where appropriate, copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2421-2W, on non-departmental public bodies, what is the net change is in the *(a)* amount and *(b)* percentage of (i) resource, (ii) capital and (iii) total budgets for each of his Department's executive agencies and sponsored bodies from 2008-09 to 2009-10 in (A) cash and (B) real terms; and what savings were achieved in each spending area of each such organisation in that period. [226942]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* Requested details for arms length bodies and gross controlled agencies for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 are provided in the following tables. HM Treasury deflators have been used to derive net change in real terms at 2008-09 prices.

DEFRA's other Executive Agencies: the Central Science Laboratory (CSL), the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) recover their full economic costs through charges made to customers for services provided.

How the changes in budget levels between the two years will be applied, are matters for the chief executives of individual NDPBs and Executive Agencies, in consultation with Ministers.

Arms length bodies: 2008-09 to 2009-10 Budgets

£ million

	2008-09			*2009-10*		
	Resource	*Cap*	*Total*	*Resource*	*Cap*	*Total*
Environment Agency	467.5	330.0	797.5	473.8	357.5	831.3
Natural England	169.9	6.1	176.0	165.9	6.1	172.0
Carbon Trust	58.7	30.4	89.1	58.7	27.0	85.7
British Waterways	34.1	23.6	57.7	33.8	24.6	58.4
National Parks	46.6	—	46.6	51.0		51.0
Waste and Resources Action Programme	37.0	3.0	40.0	37.0	3.0	40.0
Energy Savings Trust	36.1	—	36.1	39.5	1.0	40.5
Royal Botanical Gardens Kew	17.6	8.8	26.4	17.6	10.9	28.5
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	1.9	—	1.9	1.9	—	1.9
Committee for Rural Communities	6.4	—	6.4	6.4	—	6.4
ENCAMS	5.0	—	5.0	5.0	—	5.0
Food from Britain[1]	4.0	—	4.0	0.0	—	0.0
National Forest Co.	3.6	—	3.6	3.6	—	3.6
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	1.5	—	1.5	1.5	—	1.5

£ million

Net change from 2008-09 to 2009-10

	Resource				Capital			
	Cash	*Percentage*	*Real*	*Percentage*	*Cash*	*Percentage*	*Real*	*Percentage*
Environment Agency	6.3	1.3	6.1	1.3	27.5	8.3	26.8	8.1
Natural England	-4.0	-2.4	-3.9	-2.3	—	—	—	—
Carbon Trust	—	—	—	—	-3.4	11.2	-3.3	10.9
British Waterways	-0.3	-0.9	-0.3	-0.9	1.0	4.2	1.0	4.1
National Parks	4.4	9.4	4.3	9.2	—	—	—	—
Waste and Resources Action Programme	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Energy Savings Trust	3.4	9.4	3.3	9.1	1.0	—	1.0	
Royal Botanical Gardens Kew	—	—	—	—	2.2	24.6	2.1	23.9
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Committee for Rural Communities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ENCAMS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food from Britain[1]	-4.0	100.0	-3.9	97.3	—	—	—	—
National Forest Co.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

£ million

Net change from 2008-09 to 2009-10

	Total			
	Cash	*Percentage*	*Real*	*Percentage*
Environment Agency	33.8	4.2	32.9	4.1
Natural England	-4.0	-2.3	-3.9	-2.2
Carbon Trust	-3.4	-3.8	-3.3	-3.7
British Waterways	0.7	1.2	0.7	1.2
National Parks	4.4	9.4	4.3	9.2
Waste and Resources Action Programme	—	—	—	—
Energy Savings Trust	4.4	12.1	4.3	11.8
Royal Botanical Gardens Kew	2.2	8.2	2.1	7.9
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	—	—	—	—
Committee for Rural Communities	—	—	—	—
ENCAMS	—	—	—	—
Food from Britain[1]	-4.0	100.0	-3.9	97.3
National Forest Co.	—	—	—	—
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	—	—	—	—

[1] Food from Britain will cease operations from 1 April 2009

Gross controlled agencies: 2008-09 to 2009-10 Budgets

£ million

	2008-09			*2009-10*		
	Resource	*Cap*	*Total*	*Resource*	*Cap*	*Total*
RPA Operations	201.6	22.0	223.6	182.7	19.5	202.2
RPA OCDS Costs[1]	32.4	—	32.4	—	—	—
Marine and Fisheries Agency	20.5	3.0	23.5	20.5	3.0	23.5
Animal Health	114.0	14.1	128.1	115.5	10.7	126.1
Govt Decontamination Service	3.0	—	3.0	3.0	—	3.0

£ million

Net change from 2008-09 to 2009-10

	Resource				Capital			
	Cash	*Percentage*	*Real*	*Percentage*	*Cash*	*Percentage*	*Real*	*Percentage*
RPA Operations	-18.9	-9.4	18.4	-9.1	-2.5	11.3	-2.4	11.0
RPA OCDS Costs[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marine and Fisheries Agency	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Animal Health	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	-3.4	24.3	-3.3	23.6
Govt Decontamination Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

£ million

Net change from 2008-09 to 2009-10

	Total			
	Cash	*Percentage*	*Real*	*Percentage*
RPA Operations	-21.4	-9.6	20.8	-9.3

£ million

	Net change from 2008-09 to 2009-10			
	Total			
	Cash	Percentage	Real	Percentage
RPA OCDS Costs[1]	—	—	—	—
Marine and Fisheries Agency	—	—	—	—
Animal Health	-1.9	-1.5	-1.9	-1.5
Govt Decontamination Service	—	—	—	—

[1] OCDS (Older Cattle Disposal scheme) ends February 2009

Prawns

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will assess the relative health benefits and safety from toxins of wild prawns farmed in the UK with farmed prawns imported from South East Asia; and if he will make a statement; [226475]

(2) if he will increase the rigorousness and regularity of the testing of shellfish imported from South East Asia; and if he will make a statement; [226476]

(3) what steps he is taking to reduce the risk of toxic imported shellfish being put on sale to the public in the UK. [226542]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Prawns are not farmed in the UK. Some other shellfish are farmed in the UK, but are subject to controls required by EU legislation aimed at raising the standards of aquaculture health throughout the EU.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has responsibility for food safety matters, including controls on imported food such as shellfish from non-EU countries. These imports are subject to robust checks at UK seaports and airports of entry by local authorities in accordance with EU food safety and hygiene legislation.

All imports of food products from non-EU countries must meet food safety and food hygiene requirements equivalent to those in the UK. Products of animal origin, including shellfish, may be imported from non-EU countries which ensure that establishments meet EU standards and, have enforcement officials who monitor and are required to certify compliance with EU food safety criteria.

Such products must enter the EU through designated Border Inspection Posts under the control of official inspectors, where they undergo documentary and identity checks and a prescribed proportion are subject to physical compliance checks, which can include testing for toxins.

DEFRA's Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) carries out surveillance for unacceptable residues of veterinary medicinal products in imported foodstuffs every year. This is based on recommendations from the independent Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC), which advises the VMD and FSA on residues issues. The programme focuses on looking for substances prohibited from use in the EU, and which therefore should not be present in food imported into the EU.

Warm water crustaceans have been included in the programme for several years. Several non-compliant results for metabolites of nitrofurans (antibiotics prohibited from use in the EU owing to health concerns) were reported in 2005 and 2006, with fewer non-compliant results in 2007 and 2008 to date. These are predominantly from South-East Asia. The UK authorities wrote to the Commission on this issue in January 2007.

	Number of samples	Number of non-compliant
2005	301	19
2006	393	23
2007	302	2
2008 to date	184	3

Further details of the results can be obtained from the VRC's website at

www.secretariat@vet-residues-committee.gov.uk.

Non-compliant consignments are rejected and can be destroyed. The EU Commission is notified through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) of such consignments and all EU (and EEA) border posts are advised to reinforce controls.

If a consignment fails these checks then the next 10 consignments from the relevant establishment are checked, for example, for the presence of veterinary residues. EU emergency safeguard conditions are taken when there is an outbreak of disease or other circumstances likely to present a risk to public health.

Inland local authorities also carry out checks of food on sale, regardless of country of origin. It is for food businesses to ensure that food on sale in the UK meets food safety requirements. Robust import conditions and targeted enforcement action is used to check food throughout the food chain to minimise potential risks to public health.

Primates: Pets

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* wild-caught and *(b)* captive-bred primates have been imported into the UK as pets since 2000. [225073]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since 2000, the UK CITES Management Authority has issued one import permit to allow the importation of one wild primate for the purpose of keeping as a pet. The animal had been hand reared after it had been rejected by its mother and could not be returned to the wild. The Government's scientific authorities advised that in this particular case there would be no detriment to the conservation status of the species in the wild. A permit was issued with the condition that the animal must be kept in adequate housing and could only be relinquished to a zoo or specialised keeper after ensuring that the intended recipient had been adequately informed of the accommodation, practices and equipment required to ensure the animal would be properly cared for.

There have been no permits issued in the same period to allow captive bred primates to be imported as pets.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pet primates have been seized in the UK as a result of noise or other nuisance since 2000; and where such seized primates were subsequently kept. [225075]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Any seizures of primates due to noise or other nuisance would be undertaken by local authorities. Central records of such seizures are not held.

Warm Front Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much Warm Front spent in labour costs associated with installing central heating in each of the last three years; and how many dwelling installations this figure represents. [224909]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The following table illustrates the labour costs associated with the installation of central heating and the number of installations this represents. Figures split by scheme years.

	Number of central heating installations delivered	*Heating costs—labour (£)*
2005-06	22,188	35,956,029.12
2006-07	81,357	131,348,046.91
2007-08	103,044	162,284,909.55
Total	206,589	329,588,985.58

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many properties in Bassetlaw constituency received Warm Front grants for *(a)* insulation and *(b)* central heating in the last three years. [224911]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

In the last three years, Warm Front has delivered *(a)* 533 insulation measures and *(b)* 691 heating measures to households in Bassetlaw.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether those living in residential park homes may be eligible to participate in the Warm Front scheme. [225009]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Those residing in park homes are not disqualified from receiving assistance through the scheme and are subject to the same entry criteria as all applicants. However, many park homes can prove 'hard to treat' and may not be suitable for some of the measures currently available under Warm Front.

However, Warm Front has developed mechanisms for assessing new technologies that could be brought onto the scheme and is currently reviewing alternative heating and insulation measures which could provide potential future solutions for park home properties.

Warm Front Scheme: Contracts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the largest five contractors were, in terms of business value, installing Warm Front-funded central heating in Bassetlaw constituency have been in the last three years. [224719]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The five largest contractors, in terms of the number of installations delivered through Warm Front, in Bassetlaw are:

Eaga Energy Solutions Ltd.
East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
Fenhams Contracts.
Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.
Iguana Services Ltd.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the commitments undertaken at the ministerial G8 Gleneagles Dialogue meeting in Berlin, Germany in September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [225358]

Joan Ruddock: The third Ministerial G8 Gleneagles Dialogue meeting in Berlin in 2007 concentrated on developing an integrated view on energy and climate policy with a focus on technology and investment in sustainable energy systems. The Berlin ministerial recognised the urgent need for clear and predictable policy frameworks on the national and international levels in order to spur more climate-friendly sustainable development pathways and underscored the need for agreement on a strong process to develop a post-2012 framework.

To this end, the International Energy Agency and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st century, national experts from Dialogue countries and interested stakeholders were invited to explore in more detail the technology potentials in key sectors in Dialogue countries. Analysis focused on how to ensure economic growth with a lower carbon footprint, including identifying specific innovative mechanisms for technology co-operation. The results were reported at the Japanese G8 presidency in July 2008.

International Financial Institutions were invited, in co-operation with national experts from Dialogue countries and the private sector, to analyse in depth the international co-operation toolbox, including expanding and scaling up mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism, sectoral approaches, and blended public and private financing.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Gleneagles Plan of Action on climate change to exploit cleaner technologies, promote energy efficiency and invest in clean technologies in emerging economies. [225367]

Joan Ruddock: The International Energy Agency (IEA) undertook three years of detailed work under the Gleneagles Plan of Action funded by G8 members. The Agency's report of the main conclusions can be found on its website. On energy efficiency, the IEA has completed an exhaustive analysis of the global potential for improvements in energy efficiency and the action that needs to be taken to realise that potential. This analysis culminated in 25 recommendations made by the IEA to the leaders of the G8 for improving global energy efficiency covering action on buildings, appliances, lighting, transport, industry, energy utilities and cross-cutting policies and which, by 2030, could reduce global demand for oil by 15 per cent., and energy-related CO_2 emissions by almost 20 per cent., G8 leaders at the Hokkaido summit in Japan in July accepted the IEA's conclusions, which also included:

The leaders of the G8, China, India and South Korea agreeing to establish an International Partnership on Energy Efficiency.

A commitment to strongly support the launching of 20 large-scale Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) demonstration projects globally by 2010 with a view to beginning broad deployment of CCS by 2020.

A commitment to develop road maps for innovative clean technologies and to co-operate through existing and new partnerships.

A commitment to promote the continued development and commercialisation of renewable energy, including through the launch of a Global Bioenergy Partnership.

In terms of work on encouraging investment in clean technologies in emerging economies, the World Bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) have been invited to increase dialogue with borrowers on energy issues and put forward specific proposals at their annual meetings to:

(a) make the best use of existing resources and financing instruments and develop a framework for energy investment to accelerate the adoption of technologies which enable cleaner, more efficient energy production and use.

(b) explore opportunities within their existing and new lending portfolios to increase the volume of investments made on renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies consistent with the MDBs' core mission of poverty reduction.

(c) work with interested borrower countries with significant energy requirements to identify less greenhouse gas intensive growth options which meet their priorities; and ensure that such options are integrated into Country Assistance Strategies.

(d) develop local commercial capacity to develop and finance cost-effective projects that promote energy efficiency and low-carbon energy sources.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress the Government has made on Public Service Agreement 27 on leading the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change; and if he will make a statement. [225368]

Joan Ruddock: Public service agreement 27 on climate change covers three major challenges—to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions by working for a global deal, to reduce UK emissions to put us in the forefront of the move to a low carbon economy; and to ensure the country is adapting to the consequences of climate change which are already unavoidable. Progress has been made on all three fronts but much more still needs to be done.

The Climate Change Bill, Energy Bill and Planning Bill will support the infrastructure changes required in the UK, establish binding carbon budgets, and set up the Committee on Climate Change. The Committee's first report is due in December.

The Government are supporting proposals for strengthening the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which places a cap on emissions from energy intensive sectors and puts a price on carbon, as the basis for a global carbon trading market.

The Government are consulting on a Renewable Energy Strategy as part of meeting the EU target to source 20 per cent. of the EU's energy from renewable sources by 2020. It is also taking steps to enable nuclear new build and is developing an approach to carbon capture and storage.

The Government are also working with other countries to secure a good outcome from negotiations on the EU's emissions target for 2020 and to prepare for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2009.

Insulation: Housing

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people able to carry out insulation work in winter 2008-09 and *(b)* council-owned or housing association properties eligible for insulation or pipe lagging work under the energy efficiency and household insulation scheme announced in September. [226530]

Joan Ruddock: We are working closely with energy suppliers and the insulation industry to maximise insulation activity under the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) this winter. There are now some 4,000 people able to carry out insulation work, plus support staff—an increase of almost 500 staff since April 2008.

3.9 million (reported April 2006) local authority and registered social landlord households are eligible to benefit from energy supplier action under CERT; a significant number have already been treated through this and the Decent Homes programme. It is up to landlords to proactively work with energy suppliers to find cost-effective energy saving opportunities which can benefit their tenants.

Interdepartmental Analysts Group

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Interdepartmental Analysts Group *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake on climate change and the low carbon economy; and if he will make a statement. [225350]

Joan Ruddock: The Interdepartmental Analysts Group is revising its guidance to ensure that the policies needed to achieve cuts in emissions are evaluated and appraised in a consistent manner. The Group is undertaking evaluation and appraisal of emissions reduction policies beyond those contained in the 2007 Energy White Paper, that will be needed to achieve further cuts in emissions.

JUSTICE

Driving Offences: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* fined for speeding in Leeds in each of the last 10 years. [226390]

Maria Eagle: Available information on speed limit offences within the West Yorkshire police force area from 1997 to 2006 (latest available) is provided in the following table. 2007 data should be available later this year.

Data are available at police force area level only.

Number of court imposed fines[1, 2] imposed at magistrates courts and fixed penalty notices issued[3] for speed limit offences[4], within West Yorkshire police force area, 1997 to 2006

		Number of offences
	Court imposed fines[1, 2]	*Fixed penalty notices issued[3]*
1997	3,738	24,103
1998	4,245	29,635
1999	5,553	24,791
2000	5,619	24,595
2001	4,442	20,937
2002	2,295	32,126
2003	3,349	70,011
2004	4,263	68,827
2005	5,204	66,031
2006	5,955	49,528

[1] May include cases where fixed penalty was issued and not paid and consequently taken to court.
[2] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[3] Covers tickets paid where there is no further action.
[4] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 and 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926, byelaws made thereunder.
Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Written warning may also be under reported.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Lancaster Farms Young Offender Institute

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken in response to recommendations in the 2006 Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board for Her Majesty's Young Offender Institute, Lancaster Farms. [226469]

Mr. Hanson: My hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle) formally replied to the report on 17 September 2007. This letter contained detailed responses to all of the concerns raised. The Board recently submitted its Annual Report for 2007 and I will be writing to the Chair shortly, addressing the issues that it has highlighted.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has received representations from the Governor of Her Majesty's Young Offender Institute, Lancaster Farms on late drop offs from court; and if he will make a statement. [226472]

Mr. Hanson: No representations have been made to me by the Governor of Her Majesty's Young Offenders Institute, Lancaster Farms, about the late arrival of young prisoners from court. Data provided by the escort contractor indicate that of 863 young prisoners escorted to HMYOI Lancaster Farms from courts between 1 April 2008 and 30 September 2008, 88 per cent. arrived before 1900 hours and only six arrived after 2000 hours.

Law Centres

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons a full tendering process is undertaken for the setting up of community legal advice networks. [226218]

Bridget Prentice: As public bodies the Legal Services Commission (LSC) and any local authority partners are required to act in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 when awarding relevant contracts for public services such as a Community Legal Advice Network. These regulations incorporate European Union (EU) procurement law into UK practice; to ensure a consistent regime for the award of public contracts throughout the EU.

Moreover, the tendering process allows the LSC to secure excellent access, high quality and the best possible value for money.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with representatives of Citizens Advice Bureaux on the proposed changes to the community legal systems. [226219]

Bridget Prentice: My Noble friend, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, the former Legal Aid Minister, met representatives of Citizens Advice on a number of occasions to discuss a range of issues relating to the Legal Aid Reform programme. The most recent meeting took place in June 2008.

The Legal Services Commission also engage with Citizens Advice on a regular basis to discuss the reform programme. For example, there are regular meetings between the chief executives of the LSC and Citizens Advice, and a bi-monthly meeting is held between the LSC and Not-for-Profit agencies (including Citizens Advice) on contracting issues.

Legal Advice and Assistance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 473W, on legal advice and assistance, what assessment he has made of the effect of the establishment of new community legal advice centres on the viability of citizens advice bureaux in areas where they have not won contracts to run the new centres. [225546]

Bridget Prentice: Community Legal Advice (CLA) services (centres and networks) offer integrated help on housing, debt, employment, welfare benefits, and community care because these problems, in particular, are often interlinked.

They also bring together advice services funded by local bodies, such as local authorities, with legal aid funded by the Legal Services Commission (LSC). Centres and networks aim to provide services that meet the needs of people in the local area and are commissioned through an open tender process.

The LSC currently funds, with the respective local authority, four Community Legal Advice centres in Gateshead, Leicester, Derby and Portsmouth. In addition, the Hull Community Legal Advice centre, which is jointly funded with Hull City Council, will open on 20 October. Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABx) were part of the winning bid in Gateshead, Derby and Portsmouth.

Hull Citizens Advice Bureau was unsuccessful in its bid for the Hull Community Legal Advice centre and the LSC are in discussions with it about its future. Though not part of the Leicester Community Legal Advice centre, the Leicester CABx did not lose any funding as a result of the centre opening earlier this year.

CABx play an important role in advising and supporting local communities.

In addition to those involved in Community Legal Advice centres, the LSC continues to fund around 250 CABx to deliver advice through legal aid.

Legal Aid

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases in the *(a)* criminal and *(b)* civil courts were funded wholly or partly through legal aid in the last year for which figures are available; and what the equivalent figures were (i) five and (ii) 10 years previously. [225971]

Bridget Prentice: The following table provides information on legally aided cases in the criminal courts in 1997-98, 2002-03 and 2007-08.

The number of magistrates courts claims provides a reasonable proxy of the number of cases legally aided although in some cases there may be more than one claim if two or more people are represented. The majority of representation orders granted in the Crown court and above will have also received representation in the magistrates' court but a minority will not. In the Crown court, on average, there are 1.2 representation orders per case (again, where more than one defendant is involved in a case).

I am unable to provide an answer in respect of the civil courts, as this information is not held centrally. In particular, many legally aided cases are completed without ever needing to come to court.

Thousand

	Magistrates courts claims	*Representation orders—Crown court and above*
1997-98	494	124
2002-03	575	124
2007-08	474	124

Prisoners: Employment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which closed *(a)* adult (i) male and (ii) female prisons and *(b)* (A) male and (B) female young offender institutions in England and Wales have introduced changes to the core working day since 1 January 2008; on which date the changes were introduced in each case; and which establishments have not introduced changes. [226262]

Mr. Hanson: The final date for implementation of the standard core day was 29 June 2008. A number of prisons are introducing the change after this date for the reasons given in the following table.

Prison core day implementation

Establishment	*Core Day Implemented*	*Date implemented*
Acklington	Yes	29 June 2008
Albany	No	Prison being clustered with other prisons on the IOW will introduce once cluster complete
Ashwell	Yes	29 June 2008
Askham Grange	No	Open Prison
Aylesbury	Yes	29 June 2008
Bedford	Yes	29 June 2008
Belmarsh	Yes	1 January 2008
Birmingham	Yes	29 June 2008
Blakenhurst	Yes	13 July 2008
Blantyre House	No	Due to accommodation design unable to implement
Blundeston	Yes	6 July 2008
Brinsford	Yes	29 June 2008
Bristol	Yes	29 June 2008
Brixton	Yes	29 September 2008
Brockhill	Yes	13 July 2008
Buckley Hall	Yes	29 June 2008
Bullingdon	Yes	29 June 2008
Bullwood Hall	Yes	29 June 2008
Camp Hill	No	Prison being clustered with other prisons on the IOW will introduce once cluster complete
Canterbury	Yes	29 June 2008
Cardiff	Yes	29 June 2008
Castington	Yes	29 June 2008
Channings Wood	Yes	29 June 2008
Chelmsford	Yes	29 June 2008

Prison core day implementation

Establishment	*Core Day Implemented*	*Date implemented*
Coldingley	No	New accommodation being completed will introduce Core day when work has finished
Cookham Wood	No	Juvenile
Dartmoor	Yes	4 July 2008
Deerbolt	Yes	20 June 2008
Dorchester	Yes	29 June 2008
Dover	No	Immigration removal centre
Downview	Yes	29 June 2008
Drake Hall	Yes	29 June 2008
Durham	Yes	29 June 2008
East Sutton	No	Open Prison
Eastwood Park	Yes	29 June 2008
Edmunds Hill	Yes	29 June 2008
Elmley	Yes	29 June 2008
Erlestoke	Yes	6 April 2008
Everthorpe	Yes	29 June 2008
Exeter	Yes	29 June 2008
Featherstone	Yes	29 June 2008
Feltham	Yes	29 June 2008
Ford	No	Open Prison
Foston Hall	Yes	29 June 2008
Frankland	Yes	29 June 2008
Full Sutton	Yes	29 June 2008
Garth	Yes	29 June 2008
Gartree	Yes	29 June 2008
Glen Parva	Yes	29 June 2008
Gloucester	Yes	29 June 2008
Grendon	Yes	29 June 2008
Guys Marsh	Yes	29 June 2008
Haslar	Yes	29 June 2008
Haverigg	Yes	29 June 2008
Hewell Grange	Yes	13 July 2008
High Down	Yes	29 June 2008
Highpoint	Yes	29 June 2008
Hindley	Yes	29 June 2008
Hollesley Bay	No	Juvenile
Holloway	No	Due to operational reasons unable to introduce, will introduce before end of 2008
Holme House	Yes	29 June 2008
Hull	Yes	27 April 2008
Huntercombe	No	Juvenile
Kennet	Yes	29 June 2008
Kingston	Yes	29 June 2008
Kirkham	No	Open Prison
Kirklevington	No	Due to accommodation design and prisoner regime unable to introduce
Lancaster Castle	Yes	29 June 2008
Lancaster Farms	Yes	29 June 2008
Latchmere House	No	Juvenile
Leeds	Yes	29 June 2008
Leicester	Yes	29 June 2008
Lewes	Yes	29 June 2008
Leyhill	No	Open Prison
Lincoln	Yes	29 June 2008
Lindholme	Yes	4 July 2008
Littlehey	Yes	29 June 2008
Liverpool	Yes	29 June 2008
Long Lartin	Yes	29 June 2008
Low Newton	Yes	29 June 2008
Maidstone	Yes	29 June 2008
Manchester	Yes	29 June 2008
Moorland Closed	Yes	29 June 2008
Morton Hall	Yes	29 June 2008
Moorland Open	No	Open Prison
New Hall	Yes	25 March 2008
North Sea Camp	No	Juvenile
Northallerton	Yes	25 January 2008

Prison core day implementation

Establishment	*Core Day Implemented*	*Date implemented*
Norwich	Yes	29 June 2008
Nottingham	Yes	29 June 2008
Onley	Yes	29 June 2008
Parkhurst	No	Prison being clustered with other prisons on the IOW will introduce once cluster complete
Pentonville	Yes	4 July 2008
Portland	Yes	6 April 2008
Prescoed	Yes	29 June 2008
Preston	Yes	29 June 2008
Ranby	Yes	29 June 2008
Reading	Yes	29 June 2008
Risley	Yes	29 June 2008
Rochester	Yes	29 June 2008
Send	Yes	29 June 2008
Shepton Mallet	Yes	29 June 2008
Shrewsbury	Yes	29 June 2008
Springhill	No	Open Prison
Stafford	Yes	29 June 2008
Standford	No	Open Prison
Stocken	Yes	29 June 2008
Stoke Heath	Yes	29 June 2008
Styal	Yes	29 June 2008
Sudbury	No	Open Prison
Swaleside	Yes	29 June 2008
Swansea	Yes	29 June 2008
Swinfen Hall	Yes	29 June 2008
The Mount	Yes	29 June 2008
The Verne	No	Due to accommodation design and prisoner regime unable to introduce
Thorn Cross	No	Juvenile
Usk Cluster with Prescoed	Yes	29 June 2008
Wakefield	Yes	29 June 2008
Wandsworth	Yes	29 June 2008
Warren Hill	Yes	May 2008
Wayland	Yes	29 June 2008
Wealstun	Yes	29 June 2008
Wetherby	No	Juvenile
Wellingborough	Yes	29 June 2008
Werrington	No	Juvenile
Whatton	Yes	29 June 2008
Whitemoor	Yes	29 June 2008
Winchester	Yes	29 June 2008
Woodhill	Yes	29 June 2008
Wormwood Scrubs	Yes	29 June 2008
Wymott	Yes	29 June 2008

Prisoners: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were held in prisons on 30 September, broken down by nationality; and how many prisoners held in England and Wales on that date had an unknown country of origin. [225872]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of June 2008, the last date for which this information is available, there were 11,498 foreign national prisoners detained in all prisons in England and Wales, and 946 for whom the nationality information is not yet recorded on central data systems. The total includes prisoners held on remand or serving custodial sentences, as well as those held under the Immigration Act 1971 (including those in the immigration removal centres of Dover, Haslar and Lindholme).

In June's data some 75 per cent. of prisoners for whom nationality is unrecorded are remand prisoners. Unrecorded nationalities account for 1 per cent. of the overall population.

NOMS continues to work with the Border and Immigration Agency to speed up the system for removing those foreign national prisoners who meet the deportation criteria. Where the information is not already available, this will include establishing the nationality of individuals, and the relevant country of origin (or transit) to deport them to if appropriate.

This information is published at the following website, and is updated quarterly;

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those in custody in England and Wales have been diagnosed with mental health problems. [225914]

Mr. Hanson: We are aware that there are a number of people in custody in England and Wales who experience mental health problems. The 1997 Office for National Statistics' survey, for example, indicated that as many as 58 per cent. of male and 75 per cent. of female remand prisoners, and 39 per cent. of male and 62 per cent. of female sentenced prisoners met criteria for a diagnosis of anxiety and/or depression. Rates of very severe mental illness were between 7 and 9 per cent. of sentenced men and 14 per cent. of women having a psychotic illness.

Accurate identification of people needing mental health treatment and care is important at all stages in the care and offender pathway. This is why all prisoners are screened at reception for risks of mental ill health and previous history of psychiatric treatment. The Offender Assessment System (OASys) helps to ensure that any person judged to be at risk and/or of needing mental health treatment and care can be identified and referred, where appropriate, to the Mental Health In-Reach Team.

By 2005-06 nearly £20 million was being invested recurrently in mental health in-reach. There are now 102 mental health in-reach teams and all prisons now have access to them: a total of 360 extra staff altogether. There are also new systems to monitor and support those at risk of harming themselves.

Probation: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* budget deficit was for each probation board in each of the last five years; and what the (i) budget and (ii) projected budget deficit is for each board for 2008-09. [227077]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the year-end budget revenue allocations for the 42 probation boards in each of the last five years, plus the revenue budget allocated to-date in the present financial year for the probation boards and six probation trusts. It also shows the agreed overspends that boards were allowed to carry forward in 2006-07 and 2007-08, plus the latest information from boards on forecast overspends in the present financial year. Information on overspends before 2006-07 is not held centrally and could be obtained by approaching 42 probation areas, which would only be at disproportionate cost.

The budget and forecast overspend figures for 2008-09 are likely to be subject to further revision.

Probation boards end-year budgets

£000

	2008-09[1]		*2007-08*		*2006-07*		*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
Board	*Revenue*	*Overspends*	*Revenue*	*Overspends*	*Revenue*	*Overspends*	*Revenue*	*Revenue*	*Revenue*
Avon and Somerset	20,815	—	20,661	—	19,771	—	18,273	16,851	15,612
Bedfordshire	9,375	—	8,863	—	8,499	150	8,180	7,182	6,517
Cambridgeshire	10,246	—	9,727	—	9,273	136	8,895	7,375	6,835
Cheshire	14,885	—	14,715	—	15,688	—	15,393	13,427	11,692
Cumbria	8,656	50	8,217	119	7,897	271	7,466	6,241	6,279
Derbyshire	14,619	—	13,490	—	12,891	—	12,166	11,088	10,335
Devon and Cornwall	21,209	—	20,225	—	19,638	—	18,184	15,646	15,667
Dorset	8,855	117	8,522	324	8,277	194	7,989	7,338	7,307
Durham	10,773	—	10,720	—	10,245	—	9,513	8,697	7,820
Essex	19,454	—	19,977	—	18,922	—	17,839	16,220	14,849
Gloucestershire	7,757	—	7,379	—	6,959	47	6,524	5,975	5,874
Hampshire	24,787	—	24,338	—	23,057	—	21,872	20,026	18,427
Hertfordshire	11,527	—	11,265	—	10,569	—	9,618	8,691	8,409
Humberside	18,249	—	17,187	—	16,130	—	14,964	13,010	12,422
Kent	21,913	—	20,993	364	20,340	—	19,052	16,760	16,322
Lancashire	23,957	—	22,979	—	21,394	—	20,251	18,837	18,600
Leicestershire	15,404	—	14,402	—	13,805	—	13,071	11,778	11,086
Lincolnshire	9,786	—	9,292	—	9,038	7	8,446	7,469	7,134
Norfolk	11,622	50	11,168	—	10,608	—	10,205	8,477	7,927
Northamptonshire	9,621	—	9,116	—	8,816	—	8,149	7,158	6,920
North Yorkshire	10,655	150	10,236	41	9,478	—	8,998	7,937	7,486
Nottinghamshire	19,644	—	19,057	—	18,117	489	17,190	14,861	14,232
Staffordshire	17,308	—	16,393	—	15,913	48	14,361	12,319	11,769
Suffolk	9,987	—	9,643	—	9,445	—	8,771	7,583	7,361
Surrey	10,632	—	10,396	36	10,081	—	9,421	7,779	7,784
Sussex	18,005	—	17,373	—	16,991	—	15,677	14,033	12,789
Teesside	13,415	150	13,606	—	13,052	—	12,178	10,954	10,613
Thames Valley	26,148	—	25,405	—	24,373	—	23,421	20,795	19,787
Warwickshire	7,303	—	6,937	—	6,743	217	6,492	5,698	5,452
West Mercia	15,344	—	15,445	—	13,642	—	13,197	11,774	11,188
Wiltshire	8,050	39	7,874	—	7,720	109	7,224	5,964	5,510
Greater Manchester	51,467	—	48,309	—	47,532	—	45,645	40,985	38,521
Merseyside	30,858	—	29,283	—	28,820	—	28,643	25,798	24,621

Probation boards end-year budgets

£000

Board	2008-09[1] Revenue	2008-09[1] Overspends	2007-08 Revenue	2007-08 Overspends	2006-07 Revenue	2006-07 Overspends	2005-06 Revenue	2004-05 Revenue	2003-04 Revenue
Northumbria	29,180	—	27,646	—	26,964	—	26,005	22,999	22,113
South Yorkshire	25,488	—	24,282	4	24,058	54	23,041	20,858	20,381
West Midlands	58,769	—	55,055	—	53,377	—	50,140	44,076	41,932
West Yorkshire	42,269	—	40,036	—	38,193	—	36,226	33,366	30,986
London	152,404	—	143,404	—	137,416	786	132,637	107,888	110,390
Dyfed-Powys	8,580	—	8,295	—	8,058	24	7,541	6,478	5,784
Gwent	11,232	—	11,252	—	10,930	—	10,018	8,938	8,029
North Wales	12,348	—	11,786	411	11,696	20	11,027	10,067	9,044
South Wales	25,246	—	25,226	1,531	24,402	—	23,098	20,917	19,328
Total	897,841	556	860,172	2,830	828,817	2,552	786,995	690,312	661,130

[1] As at 1 October 2008.

Repossession Orders

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many house repossessions were laid before the courts in each month in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* region; and how many of these were approved by the court. [226937]

Bridget Prentice: The following tables show the number of mortgage and landlord possession claims issued, suspended orders and outright orders made in the county courts of England and Wales, broken down by Her Majesty Court Service region, since 2005.

The data are not currently available by constituency.

Court level statistics on mortgage and landlord repossession actions from 1987 to 2007 are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgateland lordpossession.htm

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. As county courts' jurisdictions are not coterminous with the borough boundaries, any single Court's repossession actions are likely to relate to homes in a number of different boroughs.

Table 1: Mortgage possession claims issued in the county courts of England and Wales, broken down by region, 2005-07

	London	Midlands	North East	North West	South East	South West	Wales
January 2005	1,325	1,391	1,016	1,045	1,564	786	436
February 2005	1,697	1,632	1,014	1,131	1,975	778	506
March 2005	1,717	1,661	1,324	1,132	2,144	856	579
April 2005	1,688	1,731	1,318	1,280	2,044	990	559
May 2005	1,532	1,410	1,066	1,065	1,815	806	461
June 2005	2,002	1,943	1,372	1,366	2,218	1,037	610
July 2005	2,002	1,821	1,470	1,376	2,266	1,073	512
August 2005	1,865	1,890	1,515	1,334	2,171	901	566
September 2005	1,633	1,598	1,291	1,250	1,924	894	519
October 2005	1,864	1,977	1,462	1,434	2,193	963	549
November 2005	2,077	2,106	1,604	1,702	2,366	[illegible]	674
December 2005	1,683	1,630	1,171	1,146	1,872	[illegible]	498
January 2006	1,717	1,821	1,416	1,475	2,098	964	624
February 2006	1,670	2,005	1,485	1,429	2,057	991	653
March 2006	2,100	2,563	1,763	1,826	2,601	1,174	814
April 2006	1,761	1,768	1,330	1,436	1,938	916	580
May 2006	1,783	1,925	1,579	1,421	1,953	916	627
June 2006	1,982	2,545	1,917	1,893	2,684	1,216	819
July 2006	2,135	2,089	1,737	1,782	2,344	1,049	766
August 2006	2,011	2,267	1,674	1,631	2,215	1,195	799
September 2006	1,618	2,072	1,618	1,731	2,044	992	690
October 2006	2,014	2,249	1,682	1,804	2,332	1,045	701
November 2006	1,734	2,111	1,624	1,722	2,027	1,016	676
December 2006	1,339	1,506	1,216	1,055	1,546	668	458
January 2007	1,801	2,297	1,771	1,708	2,261	1,052	743
February 2007	1,761	2,096	1,658	1,672	2,037	974	658
March 2007	1,908	2,312	1,948	1,951	2,251	1,085	841
April 2007	1,454	1,880	1,592	1,486	1,848	876	651
May 2007	1,810	2,164	1,902	1,902	2,294	1,031	757
June 2007	1,700	2,248	1,801	1,740	2,211	1,046	777
July 2007	1,919	2,540	2,078	2,039	2,392	1,170	823

Table 1: Mortgage possession claims issued in the county courts of England and Wales, broken down by region, 2005-07

	London	Midlands	North East	North West	South East	South West	Wales
August 2007	1,634	2,480	1,872	1,986	2,169	1,033	858
September 2007	1,280	1,944	1,682	1,659	1,899	877	621
October 2007	1,663	2,440	1,933	1,921	2,193	1,083	873
November 2007	1,841	2,531	2,025	2,010	2,309	1,155	896
December 2007	1,327	1,971	1,543	1,578	1,814	882	689

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Landlord possession claims issued in the county courts of England and Wales, broken down by region, 2005-07

	London	Midlands	North East	North West	South East	South West	Wales
January 2005	2,656	2,097	1,652	1,810	2,038	1,074	611
February 2005	3,920	2,501	1,842	2,074	2,683	1,271	750
March 2005	3,966	2,316	1,860	1,959	2,429	1,177	647
April 2005	3,483	2,282	1,936	1,928	2,295	1,216	563
May 2005	3,068	2,021	1,583	1,705	1,916	1,264	640
June 2005	3,860	2,501	1,720	2,056	2,595	1,438	786
July 2005	3,633	2,435	1,748	1,860	2,217	1,209	794
August 2005	3,573	2,537	1,973	1,814	2,381	1,193	808
September 2005	3,681	2,272	1,772	2,063	2,350	1,327	827
October 2005	3,686	2,303	1,859	1,952	2,327	1,226	674
November 2005	3,827	2,297	1,685	2,214	2,397	1,342	806
December 2005	3,430	2,150	1,828	1,365	2,061	1,103	526
January 2006	3,349	2,258	1,895	1,861	2,519	1,208	757
February 2006	3,778	2,289	1,959	2,046	2,591	1,340	750
March 2006	4,029	2,307	2,035	1,939	2,667	1,274	903
April 2006	3,120	1,789	1,485	1,507	1,885	910	443
May 2006	3,289	2,024	1,623	1,851	2,222	1,136	658
June 2006	3,603	2,381	2,031	1,837	2,478	1,151	843
July 2006	3,484	2,156	1,820	2,017	2,388	1,023	663
August 2006	4,074	2,268	1,887	1,898	2,399	1,395	776
September 2006	3,114	2,150	1,892	1,790	2,187	1,124	727
October 2006	3,491	1,842	1,879	1,749	2,217	1,099	652
November 2006	3,005	1,696	1,701	1,715	2,046	1,089	545
December 2006	2,558	1,514	1,355	1,301	1,943	910	500
January 2007	2,964	1,951	1,806	1,581	2,268	1,186	667
February 2007	2,984	2,011	1,662	1,666	2,180	1,000	587
March 2007	3,176	2,224	1,767	1,710	2,135	1,060	706
April 2007	2,651	1,580	1,319	1,337	1,802	905	458
May 2007	3,250	1,937	1,621	1,725	2,181	1,003	615
June 2007	3,654	1,958	1,654	1,511	2,285	1,103	694
July 2007	3,431	2,026	1,937	1,826	2,194	1,043	649
August 2007	3,410	2,248	1,638	1,729	2,411	1,153	630
September 2007	2,899	1,944	1,522	1,617	2,050	1,003	564
October 2007	3,652	2,159	1,805	1,867	2,447	1,163	657
November 2007	3,401	2,032	1,584	1,755	2,344	1,098	663
December 2007	2,429	1,609	1,320	1,270	1,759	806	512

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Table 3: Mortgage[1] possession orders made in the county courts of England and Wales, broken down by region, 2005-07[2]

	London		Midlands		North East		North West	
	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]
January 2005	355	424	397	497	275	384	228	318
February 2005	463	538	351	477	222	302	247	355
March 2005	429	434	412	491	265	375	253	370
April 2005	561	519	478	624	355	474	321	429
May 2005	517	512	418	609	370	483	338	420
June 2005	635	664	599	630	356	486	373	461
July 2005	481	436	412	573	367	432	352	394
August 2005	607	590	628	732	363	481	399	493
September 2005	745	663	599	702	428	516	445	510
October 2005	644	579	532	609	417	472	380	420
November 2005	619	649	589	630	468	498	431	504
December 2005	565	481	528	600	393	457	305	369

Table 3: Mortgage[1] possession orders made in the county courts of England and Wales, broken down by region, 2005-07[2]

	London		Midlands		North East		North West	
	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]
January 2006	696	575	777	687	519	632	471	563
February 2006	730	649	626	659	408	418	452	453
March 2006	719	642	692	681	530	565	510	596
April 2006	525	469	606	630	470	477	353	541
May 2006	737	616	774	697	554	630	540	498
June 2006	760	613	802	892	517	580	642	675
July 2006	736	589	726	756	618	660	471	512
August 2006	733	615	782	705	588	585	608	580
September 2006	696	552	873	819	627	710	619	596
October 2006	815	571	715	670	589	597	612	595
November 2006	707	552	780	741	617	619	661	596
December 2006	534	471	663	648	606	494	560	509
January 2007	904	691	952	820	710	651	634	598
February 2007	650	535	714	678	565	541	645	593
March 2007	646	510	749	732	725	689	612	566
April 2007	610	477	677	655	573	546	572	534
May 2007	746	550	756	719	637	615	661	593
June 2007	705	524	794	738	766	562	699	625
July 2007	635	463	868	744	713	619	695	602
August 2007	598	505	851	753	640	460	677	596
September 2007	673	487	1,076	872	713	601	689	540
October 2007	648	450	1,007	809	800	628	794	710
November 2007	592	498	863	826	643	611	710	694
December 2007	537	438	762	622	560	486	522	527

	South East		South West		Wales	
	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]
January 2005	434	578	211	286	99	132
February 2005	355	507	198	274	89	121
March 2005	464	653	199	312	116	185
April 2005	636	751	201	295	152	217
May 2005	597	693	278	305	133	174
June 2005	650	682	285	290	177	197
July 2005	684	709	281	315	140	182
August 2005	614	745	342	418	172	203
September 2005	730	784	290	362	188	200
October 2005	665	741	281	361	159	212
November 2005	663	712	246	288	192	200
December 2005	554	619	256	244	152	133
January 2006	797	799	319	382	188	213
February 2006	684	709	310	303	160	216
March 2006	759	819	318	400	216	211
April 2006	688	655	286	280	184	210
May 2006	729	701	317	353	239	207
June 2006	756	756	358	387	246	209
July 2006	742	690	320	354	229	227
August 2006	833	790	379	368	246	233
September 2006	821	785	391	352	282	261
October 2006	719	613	348	324	263	256
November 2006	936	799	356	331	269	257
December 2006	582	531	299	280	214	200
January 2007	1052	788	399	337	291	305
February 2007	705	595	286	273	181	168
March 2007	747	743	417	380	286	256
April 2007	746	651	334	267	214	227
May 2007	789	600	315	328	244	254
June 2007	861	669	409	336	253	236
July 2007	869	657	366	309	300	264
August 2007	831	624	369	299	241	200
September 2007	841	638	448	329	302	218
October 2007	956	793	361	297	363	318

	South East		South West		Wales	
	Outright Orders[1]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[1]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[1]	Suspended Orders[4]
November 2007	796	704	399	320	298	294
December 2007	630	537	317	282	235	251

[1] Mortgage possession data include all types of lenders whether local authority or private.
[2] The rollout of the Possession Claim On-Line (PCOL) system in late 2006 has affected the availability of court-level data on mortgage possession orders. As a result figures for 2007 are estimated at HMCS regions.
[3] The court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually requires the defendant to pay the current mortgage instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.
[4] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

Table 4: Landlord[1] possession orders made in the county courts of England and Wales, broken down by region, 2005-07[2]

	London		Midlands		North East		North West	
	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]
January 2005	1377	871	633	942	586	979	572	953
February 2005	1131	788	586	996	549	710	435	715
March 2005	1142	697	635	960	552	845	465	842
April 2005	1386	858	690	1066	642	889	624	947
May 2005	1217	739	705	926	549	739	501	727
June 2005	1436	780	764	1049	586	844	564	823
July 2005	1367	733	697	865	540	693	534	679
August 2005	1375	831	689	1094	582	788	538	741
September 2005	1274	732	766	1043	546	663	582	858
October 2005	1406	813	756	995	665	818	564	803
November 2005	1465	743	709	992	618	807	527	895
December 2005	1235	623	571	840	529	683	443	601
January 2006	1402	733	805	1076	589	858	577	852
February 2006	1342	850	657	829	514	649	522	700
March 2006	1335	734	762	1047	591	811	561	790
April 2006	1222	645	563	710	539	672	424	566
May 2006	1380	728	702	881	605	909	552	656
June 2006	1458	640	807	893	645	646	588	719
July 2006	1476	595	668	750	621	659	513	633
August 2006	1669	731	744	810	659	702	610	650
September 2006	1390	586	892	936	651	654	608	564
October 2006	1373	481	738	788	719	676	622	673
November 2006	1474	501	816	834	662	657	684	603
December 2006	1140	391	518	599	635	578	545	595
January 2007	1742	651	787	728	709	881	676	632
February 2007	1208	391	735	646	542	545	544	552
March 2007	1466	404	749	720	785	734	695	532
April 2007	1291	458	727	702	618	638	578	514
May 2007	1420	459	680	630	628	543	606	482
June 2007	1716	450	766	761	739	554	662	565
July 2007	1609	410	745	721	739	505	732	576
August 2007	1773	567	916	758	721	570	721	539
September 2007	1368	486	865	804	640	654	633	517
October 2007	1713	610	914	896	759	741	729	657
November 2007	1765	549	902	894	715	622	717	674
December 2007	1260	463	636	616	557	465	532	473

	South East		South West		Wales	
	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[3]	Suspended Orders[4]
January 2005	794	859	419	482	254	249
February 2005	686	714	379	414	208	264
March 2005	753	956	404	451	234	256
April 2005	836	999	394	428	239	299
May 2005	748	814	368	397	185	222
June 2005	779	722	441	431	254	286
July 2005	806	865	430	422	210	241
August 2005	778	754	445	511	228	352

	South East		South West		Wales	
	Outright Orders[1]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[1]	Suspended Orders[4]	Outright Orders[1]	Suspended Orders[4]
September 2005	773	831	416	453	312	412
October 2005	816	847	462	466	221	303
November 2005	768	832	403	424	231	341
December 2005	685	742	347	414	179	208
January 2006	806	828	385	453	210	323
February 2006	705	762	345	427	205	267
March 2006	879	888	453	528	221	286
April 2006	722	647	342	320	189	224
May 2006	783	733	356	349	189	289
June 2006	820	726	402	330	216	222
July 2006	831	633	391	309	245	290
August 2006	885	732	419	311	258	334
September 2006	813	591	390	338	273	274
October 2006	836	687	470	301	286	273
November 2006	857	733	435	354	246	278
December 2006	637	559	327	275	239	204
January 2007	1094	934	514	399	302	227
February 2007	812	530	367	313	196	141
March 2007	959	635	421	396	316	231
April 2007	841	547	372	290	236	163
May 2007	913	471	403	271	255	221
June 2007	948	586	474	319	260	176
July 2007	990	560	499	306	270	215
August 2007	1006	565	469	268	253	196
September 2007	978	643	414	324	344	236
October 2007	1068	724	472	319	285	243
November 2007	1096	675	509	336	313	230
December 2007	800	608	334	252	248	194

[1] Landlord possession data include all types of landlord whether local authority, housing associations or private.
[2] The rollout of the Possession Claim On-Line (PCOL) system in late 2006 has affected the availability of court-level data on landlord possession orders. As a result figures for 2007 are estimated at HMCS regions.
[3] The court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually requires the defendant to pay the current rent plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.
[4] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

Young Offenders

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure former juvenile prisoners move to young offender prisons or wings once they reach their 18th birthday. [226470]

Mr. Hanson: The policy of the Youth Justice Board is that those young people serving a Detention and Training Order aged 18 and over in a Prison Service unit should remain in the young persons' estate to complete the custodial part of their sentence unless there are exceptional personal or population management circumstances which require them to be moved to the young adult estate.

For those sentenced to longer sentences, arrangements are in place to ensure that within a month of their 18th birthday they are relocated to the young adult estate.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to make arrangements for members of the armed services serving in Afghanistan to be able to receive Christmas parcels after the end of October. [226882]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD, in conjunction with Royal Mail Group, provides a free mail service for letters and packets, up to 2 kg in weight, from families and friends to named MOD personnel deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq throughout the year. The latest posting date to guarantee Christmas delivery is 5 December 2008.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Armed Forces personnel were deployed on operations on the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by location of operation. [226909]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location at 5 October 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Number of UK armed forces personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	Number
Total	14,950
of which	
Afghanistan[2,3]	8,800

Number of UK armed forces personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	*Number*
Iraq[2]	3,900
At sea	820
Qatar	410
Cyprus	260
Oman	260
Kuwait	230
Kosovo	160
Bahrain	80
Bosnia	10
Other	20

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.
[2] Figures for Iraq and Afghanistan have been rounded to the nearest 100 for operational security reasons. Other figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding methods used, the total may not equal the sum of the individual locations.
[3] Figures for Afghanistan are artificially high due to a current Operation Herrick Relief In Place (RIP) operation.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints Modern Housing Solutions received in each month since January 2008. [226910]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of complaints received by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) in each month since January 2008 is as follows:

	Number of complaints received
January 2008	658
February 2008	612
March 2008	562
April 2008	731
May 2008	622
June 2008	626
July 2008	656
August 2008	625
September 2008	727

MHS are responsible for the maintenance and repair of approximately 45,000 SFA properties in England and Wales and carry-out over 200,000 response repair jobs each year.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the TRiM project for post-conflict trauma, depression and stress training; what the project's budget is; where the project's administration is located; and if he will make a statement. [226247]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) system operates as a proactive, peer group mentoring and support system which aims to identify signs and symptoms and to manage the risk of any mental distress that may be suffered by individuals following a traumatic incident. It is not in itself a treatment programme. The initiative train teams of non-medical personnel from within units to recognise the signs and symptoms of mental distress and give advice to individuals on coping strategies and how to manage them or, where required, refer them for specialist help. The system has already been endorsed by both the Royal Navy and Army Chains of Command.

The allocated budget in Financial Year 2008-09 for all stress management training within the armed forces, which includes costs for TRiM training, is in the region of £1 million. Currently the administration for TRiM training is the responsibility of the individual single services.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Mastiffs, *(b)* Vector, *(c)* Jackal and *(d)* Ridgeback vehicles have been ordered by his Department; and how many have been delivered. [226912]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The breakdown of Mastiff, Vector, Jackal and Ridgeback ordered and delivered to date is as follows;

	Number ordered	*Number delivered*
Mastiff	282	108
Vector	185	178
Jackal	202	130
Ridgback	157	0

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226952]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department's instructions on financial management make it clear that it is not permissible to spend public money on Christmas functions. Any Christmas functions that take place are funded from non-public funds or by staff themselves.

Departmental Furniture

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department for (i) main buildings and (ii) other departmental offices in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [226908]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Within MOD, each top level budget is individually responsible for assessing furniture requirements and for authorising procurement of furniture, including chairs, desks and other office furnishings. Information on expenditure by individual MOD building is not held centrally. For details of overall departmental expenditure on these items for the last five years I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor on 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2438W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226490]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department operates a system of settling invoices within 30 days of their receipt by allowing 19 days for confirmation that the service or supply has been satisfactorily performed and 11 days for the Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC) to make the payment. Statistics for the 30 day cycle could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For this reason the payment performance of the FMSSC has been used to demonstrate the Department's commitment to prompt payment.

In 2007-08, the FMSSC paid 99.96 per cent., of all valid UK bills within 11 calendar days of receipt as part of the Department's contribution to improving the payment culture in the UK. The FMSSC also introduced daily payment runs to enhance its flexibility in providing a prompt and efficient service to industry and the smaller supplier.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226798]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The level of expenditure on recruitment consultants and external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

External recruitment advertising is used only if internal recruitment has failed or is unlikely to deliver a suitable applicant. Such recruitment is conducted in line with the civil service recruitment code.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of written Questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226899]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Up to 8 October 2008, 575 written for named day questions were tabled to the Ministry of Defence of which 275 (48 per cent.) were answered on the due date.

Ex-servicemen

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what percentage of ex-service personnel were defined as living in absolute poverty in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [224680]

(2) how many ex-service personnel were defined as living in relative poverty in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [224897]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Government do not collect statistics on the number of ex-service personnel living in relative poverty. Veterans facing difficulties in their civilian lives have access to the free veterans helpline and the Veterans Welfare Service which provide advice and support, as well as to the UK benefits provided for those in need.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of people eligible for veterans badges who are resident in the Scottish Borders area; and how many badges have been issued to such residents. [223266]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 9 September 2008]:* We have not made any estimate of the number of people eligible for veterans badges resident in the Scottish borders.

The information requested is not held in the format that identifies how many veterans badges have been issued in the Scottish borders area and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Hercules Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of Hercules C-130 aircraft have been fitted with explosive suppressant foam. [226997]

Mr. Quentin Davies: 74 per cent. of the Hercules C-130 fleet has been fitted with explosion suppressant foam (ESF). Those aircraft that have not been fitted with ESF will shortly begin to be retired from service.

All Hercules C-130 aircraft that are routinely deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are now fitted with ESF.

Nuclear Weapons: Compensation

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department to date of legal advice relating to claims made by nuclear test veterans claiming compensation from the Government; and how much is expected to be spent in the next 12 weeks. [222524]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Legal costs to the Department relating to compensation claims brought by nuclear test veterans up to 24 July 2008 amount to £968,050.00. The estimated subsequent costs are £543,300.00.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by his Department has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [221940]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State for the Home Department on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times Royal Navy *(a)* destroyers, *(b)* frigates, *(c)* submarines, *(d)* mine countermeasure vessels, *(e)* patrol vessels, *(f)* amphibious assault vessels and *(g)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels underwent the Storob process in each month since January 2008. [226998]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The number of times that items or components of ships' fitted equipment have been transferred between vessels in front line service each complete month this year is as follows:

2008	*Destroyers*	*Frigates*	*Submarines*	*MCMVs*	*Patrol Vessels*	*Amphibious Assault Vessels*	*RFA Vessels*
January	5	6	18	0	1	1	1
February	7	2	11	0	0	1	2
March	3	3	23	0	0	0	3
April	2	5	20	0	4	0	1
May	5	4	20	2	0	0	0
June	3	4	14	0	1	0	0
July	9	6	30	0	0	1	1
August	6	2	20	5	0	1	0
September	13	4	32	5	0	1	1
Totals	53	36	188	12	6	5	9

The accuracy of all figures is subject to the availability of relevant data and may be subject to revision.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Export Credits Guarantee Dept

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the operating costs of the Export Credits Guarantee Department were in each of the last five years. [222764]

Ian Pearson: The information is as follows.

	£ million
2002-03	30.3
2003-04	30.5
2004-05	31.4
2005-06	28.5
2006-07	25.7

Operating costs are funded from premium income rather than public funds. Figures for 2007-08 will be available later in October as part of ECGD's annual report.

Exports: Sanctions

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to publish a list of items embargoed for export and black-listed end users. [226768]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* The FCO publish on their website, on a country by country basis, details of sanctions regimes, arms embargoes and restrictions on the export of strategic goods currently implemented by the UK

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/business-trade/export-controls-sanctions/country-listing/.

As the terms of embargoes vary from country to country details of the items that are subject to embargo are given separately for each country.

Exports: Weapons

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on the export of thermobaric weapons; and if he will make a statement. [222769]

Ian Pearson: While there is no internationally agreed definition of a "thermobaric" weapon, weapons of this nature would be controlled under UK Military List (entry ML4) and exports from the UK would require an export licence. All export licence applications are carefully considered on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

Manufacturing Industries: Trade Competitiveness

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government has taken to assist the UK manufacturing sector to compete internationally. [225135]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* UK manufacturing is already very successful in global terms. The UK remains the world's sixth largest manufacturer. The Government launched its new strategy "Manufacturing: New Challenges, New Opportunities" last month. It brings together almost £150 million of support for UK manufacturing. Its overarching aim is to ensure that UK manufacturing continues to have the right long-term framework of support to ensure it emerges from the global slowdown stronger and fitter than ever, and better placed to exploit the new opportunities of an increasingly interconnected economy.

The new package of support accompanying this strategy will help UK companies exploit the considerable opportunities in high growth new emerging markets. For example, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) will provide new support for 600 companies of all sizes to identify manufacturing opportunities in India and China and will also promote UK manufacturing excellence internationally through UKTI led marketing campaigns.

SPIRE System

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average time taken to process export licences granted under the SPIRE system involving countries of proliferation concern was in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the longest time taken for process approval of a licence has been since the system's inception. [225863]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The average time taken to process all Standard Individual Export Licence applications in the last 12 months was 20 working days. The longest time taken to process a case since the SPIRE system's inception is 198 days, in a case which required careful assessment of reported links between the end user and WMD programmes.

There is no published list of countries of proliferation concern. However, the Export Control Organisation publishes quarterly figures on refusal percentages and processing times by destination for Standard Individual Export Licences on its website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/statistics/process-times/index.html

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Palace of Westminster: Utilities

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what progress has been made with preparations for the planned works to replace the mechanical and electrical systems in the Palace of Westminster. [227348]

Nick Harvey: Much of the mechanical and electrical system within the Palace of Westminster has now exceeded its economic service life and major modernisation work is urgently required. It is becoming increasingly difficult to manage the existing services and to replace, repair or extend them as required in an efficient and effective manner and there is a growing risk that breakdown in these essential services could not be quickly repaired. The complete project will take many years and involve considerable cost.

The Commission is concerned to ensure that the mechanical and electrical modernisation is carried out in the most economical way consistent with enabling the House to operate properly. Normal practice is that major works are only undertaken in the Palace of Westminster during the summer recess but the extensive scale of the work planned requires that the full range of options should be carefully considered. The Commission (working with the responsible bodies in the Lords) is therefore ordering a detailed feasibility study to examine whether substantial savings in cost, time and risk could be made by moving some operations of both Houses out of the Palace for a period to enable modernisation to be carried out continuously until its completion. All contingencies need to be looked at carefully. The feasibility study is expected to report in the middle of 2009. No decisions will be taken until all these options have been assessed.

TRANSPORT

A555: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to decide upon the possible completion of the A555 beyond its junction with the A34; and if he will make a statement. [226704]

Paul Clark: The south east Manchester relief road scheme raises substantial funding and affordability issues. The Department for Transport continues to work on the options with relevant stakeholders on this scheme promoted by Stockport metropolitan borough council.

Aviation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2242-3W, on aviation, what estimate he has made of the number of small claims actions pursued by plaintiffs and pursuers against airlines alleging non-compliance with EU Regulation 261/2004; what percentage of such actions have resulted in an award of damages to the consumer; and what the total sum paid by airlines in satisfaction of such claims is. [227160]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are not in a position to estimate the number of small claims actions issued seeking compensation for non-compliance with EU Regulation 261/2004.

Small claims actions by their nature are dealt with in the civil courts of England and Wales. The required information may be present in court records but is not collected centrally.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is however aware of eight cases of court action, seven of which were successful in obtaining compensation. In the remaining case, the CAA intervened and successfully persuaded the airline concerned to pay, on a "without prejudice" basis. From its monitoring of the media and discussions with complainants, the CAA is aware anecdotally of other cases where passengers have successfully taken court action.

Buses: Vandalism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of vandalism to buses in each of the last five years. [225622]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold data centrally on the cost of vandalism to buses. This is partly due to the difficulties in collecting national statistics across the varied reporting systems of the numerous bus companies currently in operation.

However, the Department has commissioned research into the costs of crime committed on public transport in England, the results of which are due to be published next year.

Crossrail Line: Finance

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial commitments have been made by the Government as part of the Crossrail scheme for each of the next five years. [226260]

Paul Clark: Over the next five years, the Department for Transport and Transport for London (as joint sponsors of the Crossrail Project) will make total funding contributions of £5.7 billion for Crossrail. Further detail is provided in the following table.

£ million

Year commencing 1 April	DfT committed funding	TfL committed funding
2008	—	500
2009	172	522
2010	220	832
2011	622	788
2012	1,250	799
Total	2,264	3,441

Departmental Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on consultancy fees since its establishment. [226749]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport has spent £895.6 million on consultancy fees since it was established in May 2002. I would refer the hon. Member to the *Official Report* dated 29 September 2008, column 2425W which gave details on a year by year basis. Figures for 2008-09 are not yet available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* electronic and *(b)* manual requests using reasonable cause provisions were received by the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; how many manual requests were refused in each month and for what reasons; and what reasons for refusal were in each case. [226731]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held in the form requested.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent consideration he has given to changing maximum levels of alcohol for drivers; and what factors were taken into account as part of such consideration. [226713]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We explained in the report of the second review of the Road Safety Strategy (February 2007) that we intend to keep the case for a reduction in the drink drive legal limit under review. We also made clear that the limit cannot be considered in isolation, and that our first priority is to improve enforcement, building on the recent achievements of the police. The Government are committed to public consultation on further measures to reduce alcohol-related road casualties and will publish a consultation document as soon as possible.

Railways: Airports

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his Department's high level output specification plan update for July 2008, what steps he is taking to ensure that carriages designed for use on services to airports are refurbished and made fit for purpose when cascaded to train operating companies running other services; and what the estimated completion dates for phases one, two and three of the plan are. [226662]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not specify rolling stock types or interior layouts and design. It is for the train operator to ensure rolling stock deployed is appropriate for the market it serves. The timing of phases one, two and three of the plan is not fixed as it is dependent on the progress of the commercial negotiations between the Department and the train operating companies.

Railways: Exhaust Emissions

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her statement on 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1184, that a high-speed rail service emits approximately double the carbon dioxide of a lower-speed rail service, (1) if she will place in the Library her Department's analysis of the carbon dioxide emissions from high-speed rail and lower-speed rail; [217517]

(2) how much her Department spent on analysing the carbon dioxide emissions from high-speed and lower-speed rail in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many staff worked on that analysis; [217518]

(3) what estimate she has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emitted per mile travelled by *(a)* a high speed train, *(b)* a lower speed train and *(c)* an average aeroplane. [217519]

Paul Clark: The 2007 Rail White Paper estimated that carbon emissions per passenger for a journey between London and Edinburgh would be approximately 7 kg for conventional speed rail, 14 kg for high speed rail and 26 kg for aviation.

This analysis was informed by Professor Roger Kemp's work on the environmental impact of high speed rail and his report for the Rail Safety and Standards Board on traction energy metrics. Further information on the assumptions underpinning these estimates can be found on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/whitepapercm7176/

Professor Kemp's energy metrics report can be found at:

http://www.rssb.co.uk/pdf/reports/research/T618_traction-energy-metrics_final.pdf.

Departmental staff have analysed the carbon impacts of high speed rail but within the context of their wider environmental and rail responsibilities. Consequently, the Department is unable to provide the information on staff and resources as requested.

In March this year, the Secretary of State invited Network Rail to examine options for supporting further growth in the longer term, which might include new conventional and high speed lines. As part of this work, further consideration will be given to the relative carbon performance of higher and lower speed rail options.

Roads: Tolls

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008 to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, *Official Report*, column 893W, on roads: tolls, what progress has been made in establishing the road charging trials involving volunteers. [226726]

Paul Clark: On 15 September 2008 the Government confirmed the names of the companies who will run the Demonstrations Project on road pricing technology. Eight bids were received in response to the invitation to tender for the Road User Service Provider's Framework, of which four were successful. They were Intelligent Mechatronic Systems (UK), Sanef Tolling Limited, T-Systems Ltd. and Trafficmaster Plc.

As we announced in 2007 and then updated Parliament in July this year, these trials will explore how time-distance-place charging can work accurately, reliably and affordably while safeguarding privacy. Designing an effective mechanism to achieve these aims presents a significant challenge. We believe that this project will help local authorities in the longer-term development of their plans for combining a local congestion charging scheme investment with major investment in public transport.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will reply to question 220177, on staff, tabled on 15 July. [226925]

Mr. Hoon: I replied to the hon. Member on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 892W.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the number of people who will be required to monitor compliance of the provisions of the Equality Bill, if enacted. [218413]

Maria Eagle: There is no legal requirement on any particular organisation or person to monitor compliance with discrimination legislation generally and the Government intend to maintain this arrangement in the new Equality Bill. However, the Equality and Human Rights Commission has a statutory duty to monitor the effectiveness of discrimination legislation; powers to undertake inquiries and investigations and the power to enforce compliance with public sector duties. So, it will be up to the Commission to consider the allocation of resources to tasks which arise from the provisions of the new Equality Bill.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many maintenance calculations were made by the Child Support Agency in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [223987]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many maintenance calculations were made by the Child Support Agency in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. [223987]

The Agency is able to collate the requested information on current scheme maintenance calculations on cases maintained on the CS2 computer system only. The information available is further restricted to the initial assessment only, although many cases can be reassessed as circumstances change throughout their lifetime.

The information available is provided in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Current scheme initial maintenance calculations

	Great Britain	*North East*	*South Tyneside*	*Jarrow*
2003-04	68,500	2,900	200	100
2004-05	94,200	4,700	300	200
2005-06	126,000	6,900	500	200
2006-07	134,700	7,500	500	200
2007-08	141,500	8,700	600	300

Notes:

1. Figures include all current scheme cases with an initial maintenance calculation.
2. As the current scheme came into existence in 2003, figures only go back to this date.
3. Cases have been allocated to the North East region, Jarrow parliamentary constituency and South Tyneside local authority by matching the postcode of the parent with care against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.
4. Many cases can be re-assessed during their lifetime. Management information for current scheme cases only captures the number of initial assessments. Management information also exists on the date of the latest assessment for current scheme cases. However, as many cases could have been re-assessed many times between the initial assessment and latest assessment, a large proportion of re-assessments are excluded from the data. For this reason, only initial assessments have been included in the information provided.
5. CSCS calculations are not included in these figures. When a CSCS case is closed it is removed from the management information. A large proportion of CSCS cases will have closed and therefore the initial calculation date cannot be extracted from them.
6. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Employment Vacancies: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many notified vacancies there were in Chelmsford local authority area in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [224480]

James Purnell *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The available information is in the table.

Number of vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in the Chelmsford local authority area—March to August, 2008

	Number
March	1,029
April	930
May	1,052
June	1,195
July	1,339
August	1,246

Notes:
1. Jobcentre Plus handles only a proportion of vacancies notified by employers. Consequently the figures do not represent the total number of job vacancies available.
2. Interpretation of the Jobcentre vacancy data should take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. The figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate changes in labour demand.
3. The Jobcentre Plus vacancies series do not provide comprehensive measures relating to all vacancies in the economy. The proportion of vacancies which are notified by employers to Jobcentre Plus varies over time, according to the occupation and industry of the vacancies and also by geographical area.
4. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Income Support: Mortgages

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to offer additional support to householders who are having difficulties meeting their mortgage repayments; and if he will make a statement. [227241]

Jonathan Shaw: On 2 September we announced that we will reform Support for Mortgage Interest to simplify the system and make it easier for people who are eligible to claim.

The changes include shortening the waiting period before support for mortgage interest is paid from 39 or 26 weeks to 13 weeks for new working age claims from April 2009; increasing the capital limit for new working age claims from £100,000 to £175,000 from April 2009 to take into account the value of people's homes today; and introducing a two year time limit on support for mortgage interest for new jobseeker's allowance claims only.

The system of support for home owners will be reviewed once housing market conditions improve.

Jobcentre Plus: Correspondence

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average it took for Royal Mail Opening Units to receive, open, sort and deliver post to Jobcentre Plus sites using the service in each month in 2008 to date. [225417]

Mr. McNulty: The time taken by Mail Opening Units to receive, open, sort and deliver post is currently not recorded, however, the contracted time for this process equates to 12 hours. Management information gathered supports that this requirement is met.

Jobseeker's Allowance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much was paid in jobseeker's allowance in each financial year since 2005; [224651]

(2) how much was paid in jobseeker's allowance in each financial year from 2001 to 2005; [224652]

(3) how much was paid in jobseeker's allowance in each financial year from 1997 to 2001. [224653]

Mr. McNulty: The information is in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance (JSA) expenditure: 1997-98 to 2007-08

£ million, nominal

JSA	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Contribution based	475	474	459	447	470	519	507	445	486	478	420
Income based	3,418	3,083	2,796	2,435	2,136	2,105	2,052	1,759	1,823	1,962	1,789
Total	3,893	3,557	3,255	2,882	2,606	2,624	2,559	2,204	2,309	2,440	2,209

Source:
DWP accounting data

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what response he has made to recent representations by the National Pensioners' Convention on the number of pensioners living on less than 40 per cent. of the median population income. [226254]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Tackling pensioner poverty continues to be one of this Government's key priorities.

The Government have introduced a number of measures to reduce the number of older people in poverty. In 1997, the poorest pensioners lived on around £69 a week, today pension credit ensures that no-one needs to live on less than £124.05 a week (£189.35 for a couple). We have successively raised the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit at least in line with earnings in every year since its introduction, and the value of the safety-net we provide for the poorest pensioners has increased by over a third in real terms since 1997.

Our commitments in the Pensions Act 2007 to continue to uprate the pension credit standard minimum guarantee in line with earnings over the long term, and to reintroduce the earnings link to basic state pension from 2012, or by the end of the next Parliament, will help secure these gains into the future.

We will continue to strive to ensure that older people are aware of, and take up their entitlements through initiatives such as; using sophisticated data matching to identify eligible non-recipients, home visits for vulnerable customers, local and national advertising and media

campaigns, a simple and straight-forward claim process and ever closer working with partner organisations. In addition to pension credit we have increased winter fuel payments to £200 for households with someone aged 60-79, and £300 for those with someone aged 80 or over. And we will be making an additional payment for winter 2008-09 of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over. Since 1997, we have also introduced free eye-tests, free bus passes for pensioners and free television licences for over 75s.

Post Office Card Account

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to make a decision on the award of the contract for the Post Office card account. [225529]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The procurement process is still under way.

An announcement will be made as soon as possible.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will ensure that his forthcoming decision on the Post Office card account does not jeopardise the viability of local post offices; and if he will make a statement. [226554]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The procurement process is still under way.

An announcement of the outcome will be made as soon as possible.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what professional qualifications are required of doctors who carry out personal capability assessments for his Department; and under what level of oversight they operate. [225456]

Jonathan Shaw: Each doctor is required to have full unconditional General Medical Council registration, and at least three years post full registration experience. The doctors carrying out Personal Capability Assessments must also be approved to carry out assessments by the Chief Medical Adviser to the Department on behalf of the Secretary of State. This condition can only be waived, in exceptional cases, at the discretion of the Chief Medical Advisor. In addition, every doctor must complete a course in disability assessment medicine, and undergo training specific to the benefits with which they are dealing.

Approval by the Chief Medical Advisor is dependent upon ongoing demonstration that the work being carried out meets a satisfactory standard. This is done through regular monitoring, prior to approval, for new entrants, and continuing random audits for all doctors to ensure that standards remain high. Approval to carry out assessments will be removed if their work does not continue at the required standard. This monitoring is carried out by the company who are contracted to provide medical services, ATOS Healthcare. The Department also carries out a range of quality checks independently.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bolivia; Politics and Government

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the Union of South American Nations' special summit on 15 September on developments in Bolivia. [226633]

Gillian Merron: The Government was pleased with the outcome of the Union of South American Nations' (UNASUR) summit meeting on 15 September. Following the summit, the EU, with strong UK backing, issued a statement on 19 September that: supported the steps taken by UNASUR; endorsed the terms of the Palacio de la Moneda Declaration; welcomed that the UNASUR meeting facilitated the signature on 16 September of an agreement to open a national dialogue; and stated the EU's readiness to respond favourably to an invitation to support that dialogue alongside other national and international actors.

The EU Troika is acting as an international facilitator in the national dialogue, in close cooperation with the UNASUR delegation. Our ambassador to Bolivia is participating as a member of the Troika.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information technology projects initiated by his Department have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221712]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not cancelled any significant information technology projects during the past five years. To provide more detailed information, on small individual projects—including from across our network of posts—would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226897]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office responded to 62 per cent. (484 of 785) of written named day parliamentary questions on the due date in the current parliamentary session to date.

Georgia: South Ossetia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on whether the US administration was informed in advance about Georgian plans to take military action in South Ossetia. [223177]

Caroline Flint: We have no information to suggest that the US Administration was informed in advance of Georgian actions. The US Administration has stated in

hearings before the US Congress that they had warned the Georgians not to fall victim to provocations, and whatever their fears, a military response would be a mistake. Prior to 7 August, the US and others, including the UK, had encouraged all parties to avoid actions that would escalate tensions.

Malta: Foreign Relations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last visited Malta; what recent steps he has taken to strengthen United Kingdom economic, commercial, cultural and educational links with Malta; and if he will make a statement. [222248]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly meets with his Maltese counterpart at the General Affairs and External Relations Councils, which occur monthly. The last visit by a Foreign Secretary to Malta was by my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) in November 2005.

The UK is Malta's second largest trading partner after Italy (2008 first quarter provisional figures). British business therefore thrives in Malta. Thousands of British tourists visit Malta each year, contributing to Malta's tourism industry.

British culture features regularly in Malta, spanning a wide spectrum from the Globe Theatre group to Duran Duran. The most recent event was a poetry reading by Douglas Dunn earlier last month.

The UK continues to be the country of choice for Maltese post graduates and since Malta's entry into the EU the number of Maltese students choosing to do undergraduate degree courses in the UK has been increasing steadily.

We co-operate closely in other fields such as defence, with regular ships visits and training for the armed forces of Malta. A member of the armed forces of Malta is currently receiving training at Dartmouth and another will go to Sandhurst in September.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of relations with Malta; and if he will make a statement. [222249]

Caroline Flint: We regularly assess our relations with Malta. The relationship between Malta and the UK continues to be strong, based on our shared history and our membership of the EU and the Commonwealth. We have regular engagement with the Maltese through bilateral contacts and international institutions, especially the EU.

Somalia: Piracy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on trends in the levels of piracy and theft affecting shipping transporting food aid to Somalia; if he will discuss with his international counterparts the protection of food aid to Somalia from piracy and theft; and if he will make a statement. [222733]

Gillian Merron: Prior to French intervention in 2007, World Food programme aid shipments had come under pirate attack. Since the autumn of 2007, the French, Danes and Dutch have all undertaken escort duties which have been successful in deterring further attacks. Canada has agreed to escort World Food programme vessels from mid August. The Government have regularly discussed how best to secure a sustainable, long term solution for protection of food aid shipments from the threat of piracy with both European Union and other international partners.

Sri Lanka: EU External Trade

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government plans to make over the EU General System of Preference Plus (GSP+) status of Sri Lanka for trade purposes, to be reviewed in December, in the light of Sri Lanka's human rights record and the linkage between trade preferences and human rights in the GSP+ scheme legal provisions; and if he will make a statement. [227025]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

Decisions on Sri Lanka's General System of Preference Plus (GSP+) status take place at an EU level, and we will participate fully in EU discussions about the future of Sri Lanka's GSP+ status.

We will encourage the Government of Sri Lanka to engage with the Commission to demonstrate its compliance with the human rights and other conventions underpinning the GSP+ scheme.

Tamils

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the numbers of Tamil women and children displaced in Sri Lanka since the end of July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [227019]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

We estimate that the number of Sri Lankans displaced in the latest surge in conflict between the Sri Lankan armed forces and separatist extremists has risen from approximately 75,000 in July to between 200,000 and 250,000. Most of these people are Tamils. We estimate that about two thirds of them are likely to be women and children, but it is not possible to calculate numbers exactly because there is no humanitarian access. They are trapped between opposing forces in a pocket of north-east Sri Lanka without the assistance they need. There are plans by the United Nations and the Sri Lankan authorities to mount relief convoys but so far very little is getting through. As I said in the House on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 240-48WH, we deplore this situation, have called on all parties to the conflict to facilitate access and humanitarian aid and have committed a further £2.5 million in humanitarian relief through the international agencies.

We estimate that the total number of internally displaced people in Sri Lanka is now at least 500,000.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Visits Abroad

Pete Wishart: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions he has left the United Kingdom since his appointment in pursuit of his official duties; what the purpose of each visit was; what the total cost of each visit was; and how many people accompanied him on each visit. [227165]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list.

All Ministers' travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the Ministerial Code.

For information from 2007-08 I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 103WS. Information for 2008-09 will be published in the normal way.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in her Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226425]

Chris Bryant: A total of eight non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in 2007 at a total cost of £11,477.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Fine Defaulters

5. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of prisoners in Northern Ireland are fine defaulters. [225767]

Paul Goggins: On any given day around 2 per cent. of prisoners are in prison for fine default. In the past year, 28 per cent. of all prison receptions were for fine default.

In July my right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson) and I published a set of wide-ranging proposals to improve the enforcement of fines.

Fuel Smuggling

6. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of trends in the level of smuggling of fuel into Northern Ireland. [225768]

Paul Goggins: Law enforcement agencies in Northern Ireland and the Republic are actively engaged in a range of operations against fuel fraudsters. In recent weeks there have been a number of significant arrests with almost 30,000 litres of illegal fuel seized together with cash, lorries, cars and other equipment.

Policing and Justice

7. **Mr. Woodward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget for Northern Ireland policing and justice is over the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [225769]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office's budget for policing is £1.1 billion for each of the next three years and £0.3 billion for justice for the same period.

The justice budget does not cover the NI Court Service which is the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor.

This level of funding reflects our commitment to sustained investment in policing and justice.

Security

8. **Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on security in Northern Ireland. [225770]

Mr. Woodward: I meet with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister regularly to discuss a range of issues, including security.

Drug-related Crime

9. **Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of policing of drug-related crime in Northern Ireland. [225771]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous)

Paramilitary Activity

10. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of levels of paramilitary activity in the Province. [225772]

Mr. Woodward: The principal security threat today comes from Dissident republican factions which remain active and dangerous.

The latest IMC Report has confirmed that PIRA has completely relinquished the leadership and other structures appropriate to a time of armed conflict and that the Army Council is effectively redundant.

Loyalist groups have made progress but have yet to decommission their arms.

Prison Population

12. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the likely size of the prison population in Northern Ireland in each of the next three years. [225775]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service population is currently 1,551. Estimates for the size of the prisoner population over the next three years are

1,632 in 2009-10, 1,697 in 2010-11 and 1,765 in 2011-12. This is based on a 5 per cent. increase up to 2009-10 and 4 per cent. thereafter.

Omagh Bombing

13. **Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to ensure full disclosure to the families of the victims of the Omagh bombing of information to be made available to Sir Peter Gibson in his review of the handling of intercept intelligence relating to that event. [225776]

Mr. Woodward: The Prime Minister has invited Sir Peter Gibson to undertake a review of the intercepted intelligence material available to the security and intelligence agencies in relation to the bombing and how it was shared. The Prime Minister has said he will report the outcome of the review to the House as soon as possible after he has received Sir Peter's report.

On-the-run Prisoners

14. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of on-the-run prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [225777]

Mr. Woodward: From 2003 to date, five prisoners remain unlawfully at large. All five were on pre-release home leave; four of the five within two months of release. The fifth, who was within five months of release, was on a town visit, prior to entering the Foyleview regime at Magilligan prison, where he would have availed of alternate weekend home leave.

2008 Olympic/Paralympic Games

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the performance of sportsmen and women from Northern Ireland in the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic games. [225773]

Paul Goggins: Although I have had no recent discussions with Northern Ireland Ministers on this matter, I understand that the hon. Member for East Londonderry, the Northern Ireland Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure has warmly congratulated all the athletes from Northern Ireland who participated in the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic games in Beijing, and held a reception for all the athletes on 6 October in Parliament buildings.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many antisocial behaviour injunctions have been issued in Northern Ireland since April 2007. [224693]

Paul Goggins: Injunctions against antisocial behaviour fall under the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and as such are a devolved matter under the responsibility of the Department for Social Development.

However, the NI housing executive have advised that they have secured three such injunctions against antisocial behaviour since April 2007.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on increases to the winter fuel payment; and if he will make a statement. [224596]

Mr. Woodward: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 12 March 2008 the Government's intention to increase winter fuel payments; these were discussed within Government in the normal way.

Social security is of course a devolved matter in Northern Ireland.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214676]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office is responsible for leases relating to one floor of Stockley House, Victoria, London which expire in 2011. Disposal of this space is currently being pursued and there is no intention to renew the lease on expiry.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 238W, on departmental carbon emissions, if he will place in the Library a copy of the dataset and the accompanying methodology used by the Cabinet Office to calculate its payments to the Offsetting Fund in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [222217]

Mr. Watson: The information requested by the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent advice he has issued to departments on the storage of personal data on memory sticks or other portable data storage devices. [224294]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 25-6WS, as well as the cross government mandatory minimum requirements in relation to personal data security.

The Data Handling Review states that where data has to be put onto removable media, departments should minimise the information transferred, use encryption and limit user access. References to this guidance can be found in paragraph 13 of the cross government mandatory

minimum measures on the following Cabinet Office website; a copy of which has been placed in the libraries of the House.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/~/media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/csia/dhr/cross_gov080625%20pdf.ashx

Departmental Video Recordings

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1046W, on departmental recordings, what the titles are of the online videos produced for internal audiences which are available on his Department's intranet. [222983]

Mr. Watson: A range of films are produced for internal audiences and are available on the departmental intranet, for example: Cabinet Secretary's address at the All Staff Event 2 July 2008; Cabinet Office Board Meeting 5 June 2008; and About the Women's Network.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by his Department has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [221974]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Criminal Investigation: Data Protection

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what protections are planned in the proposed use of deep packet inspection equipment to ensure that data obtained by these means is not lost or stolen and that police and intelligence agencies do not use their access to this database for purposes other than fighting crime or terrorism. [225869]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The safeguards set out in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and related statutory codes of practice govern the access to communications data irrespective of the technical means of collection. Unauthorised access to, or disclosure of, data is also an offence under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Extradition: Crimes Against Humanity

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many individuals have been subject to extradition proceedings for *(a)* suspected war crimes, *(b)* crimes against humanity and *(c)* genocide since 2000, broken down by (i) requesting state and (ii) the state in which the crime is alleged to have been committed; [224633]

(2) how many extradition requests were received under Part 1 of the Extradition Act 2003 for individuals alleged to have committed *(a)* war crimes, *(b)* crimes against humanity and *(c)* genocide in each year since the Act came into force, broken down by (i) requesting state and (ii) the state in which the crime is alleged to have been committed. [224634]

Meg Hillier: It is not the normal policy or practice, to confirm or deny the existence of any extradition request ahead of a person's arrest. With that caveat in mind, the following table shows the number of persons arrested in the UK on such charges pursuant to extradition requests received since 2000. In all cases, the alleged conduct was carried out in the requesting state. There have been no European Arrest Warrants issued to the UK for persons accused of conduct falling within the scope of this question. The EAW has been in operation in the UK since 1 January 2004.

Extradition requests

Year received[1]	*Number of requests*	*Conduct*	*Requesting state*
2000	—	—	—
2001	—	—	—
2002	1	War Crimes	Croatia
2003	—	—	—
2004	—	—	—
2005	—	—	—
2006	1	War Crimes	Croatia
	4	Genocide	Rwanda

[1] One extradition request from Spain for offences allegedly committed in Chile was received before 2000, but was refused by the then Home Secretary in March 2000.

Investigatory Powers Tribunal

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the Investigatory Powers Tribunal has met to investigate specific cases in each year since it was established. [225162]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* No figures are available on how many times the tribunal has met in each of the years requested. However, the following table shows the number of applications it has received and investigations concluded for each of those years.

Period	*Applications received*	*Investigations concluded*
2 October-31 December 2001	102	71
1 January-31 December 2002	130	95
1 January-31 December 2003	109	100

Period	Applications received	Investigations concluded
1 January-31 December 2004	90	115
1 January-31 December 2005	80	93
1 January-31 December 2006	86	81
1 January-31 December 2007	66	83

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last met the Chairman of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal. [225191]

Mr. Coaker: The right hon. Lord Justice Mummery is President of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal and my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has not met him.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* name and *(b)* title is of each person who sits on the Investigatory Powers Tribunal. [225192]

Mr. Coaker: The Tribunal currently consists of six members. They are: Lord Justice Mummery (President); Mr. Justice Burton (Vice-President); Sir Richard Gaskeil; sheriff principal John McInnes QC; Mr. Peter Scott QC; and Mr. Robert Seabrook QC.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* cost was of establishing and *(b)* expected annual running cost is of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal. [225193]

Mr. Coaker: The Investigatory Powers Tribunal was established in October 2000 with minimal start up costs as it replaced existing bodies: the Interception of Communications Tribunal, the Security Service Tribunal, the Intelligence Services Tribunal and the complaints committee that dealt with Part III of the Police Act 1997. The Investigatory Powers Tribunal and the Interception of Communications Commissioner's Office have a common Secretariat and the combined running costs of both for 2008-09 is £980,000.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers she has to ensure that cases of abuse of intrusive surveillance are investigated by the Investigatory Powers Tribunal; and what the process of appeal is for a person who is dissatisfied with *(a)* the Tribunal decision not to review their complaint and *(b)* the Tribunal's decision on their complaint. [225194]

Mr. Coaker: The Investigatory Powers Tribunal's statutory responsibilities are set out in Part IV of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. There is no domestic right of appeal against Tribunal decisions.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter of 12 June 2008 to her from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Florence Gachvgi. [222584]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 29 July 2008.

Police Arbitration Tribunal

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to *(a)* implement the decisions of the Police Arbitration Tribunal and *(b)* backdate that implementation. [225117]

Mr. Coaker: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will consider any recommendation of the Police Arbitration Tribunal very carefully. In doing so she will take account of the tribunal's findings and reasoning, and relevant factors including affordability and Government policy on public sector pay, including the maintenance of low inflation.

Police Custody: Death

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost of investigating the death by non-natural causes of a prisoner held in police custody was in the latest period for which figures are available. [224739]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are taken to investigate the death from non-natural causes of a prisoner held in police custody. [224746]

Mr. Coaker: Under the Police Reform Act 2002, deaths in custody constitute a mandatory referral to the IPCC. The IPCC assesses each referral in line with its obligations, including under article 2 of the Human Rights Act, considers the circumstances of the case referred and decides the appropriate mode of investigation.

An IPCC Commissioner has oversight of the investigation and agrees its recommendation.

Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* below superintendent rank and *(b)* of superintendent rank and above have been suspended by Lancashire Constabulary. [224646]

Mr. Coaker: As at the end of March 2008, six officers below the rank of superintendent were suspended. There were no officers of superintendent and above suspended.

Police: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the implementation of the outcomes of the police pay and conditions arbitration process; and if she will make a statement. [225267]

Mr. Coaker: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will consider any recommendation of the Police Arbitration Tribunal very carefully. In doing so she will take account of the tribunal's findings and reasoning, and relevant factors including affordability and Government policy on public sector pay, including the maintenance of low inflation.

Police: Procurement

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the marginal costs of duplicate procurement cycles in police forces in England and Wales. [225407]

Mr. Coaker: The "Efficiency and Productivity Strategy for the Police Service 2008-11" makes clear that savings can be made by the police service through increased collaborative procurement, including the use of national and regional contracts for, or open to the police service. The recent Green Paper "From The Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together" makes clear that increasingly the Government expect police authorities and chief constables to consider whether procurement decisions should be made locally (collaborating with local partners), regionally or nationally, depending on the nature of the market.

We welcome the work that police forces are doing to implement the procurement strategy for the years to 2011 agreed earlier this year by the Association of Chief Police Officers. That strategy recognises that delivering more efficient procurement depends upon forces, along with local and national partners, aligning plans and reducing duplication.

Police: Resignations

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers retired due to ill health or long-term illness between the ages of *(a)* 21 to 30, *(b)* 31 to 40, *(c)* 41 to 50 and *(d)* 51 to 60 years in the last five years. [225902]

Mr. Coaker: The age of those leaving the service due to medical retirements is not collected centrally.

The number of police officer medical retirements have been published each year by Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) in their annual report. HMIC have advised that these data will no longer be published in their annual report and that the data for 2004-05 would be the last series of data to be published.

The available data are given in the following table.

Police officer medical retirements[1] by force from 2000-01 to 2004-05[2]

Full-time equivalent[3]

Police force	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Avon and Somerset	42	42	34	10	16
Bedfordshire	18	8	7	1	3
Cambridgeshire	11	10	8	4	1
Cheshire	22	22	25	15	11
City of London	9	8	4	8	4
Cleveland	9	21	11	11	11
Cumbria	24	7	7	4	3
Derbyshire	12	9	12	2	9
Devon and Cornwall	15	19	9	6	9
Dorset	12	10	3	9	4
Durham	8	15	11	6	7
Dyfed-Powys	14	13	11	7	9
Essex	34	32	21	16	13
Gloucestershire	7	10	13	5	2
Greater Manchester	110	57	33	10	14
Gwent	16	24	22	8	13
Hampshire	17	19	11	11	8
Hertfordshire	13	8	7	3	1
Humberside	20	11	10	2	10
Kent	29	38	21	9	6
Lancashire	30	39	22	13	11
Leicestershire	28	7	9	6	8
Lincolnshire	4	3	10	3	7
Merseyside	47	58	51	25	25
Metropolitan Police	225	219	150	60	64
Norfolk	10	16	13	6	10
Northamptonshire	8	6	3	3	3
Northumbria	28	33	21	9	4
North Wales	31	20	14	6	7
North Yorkshire	37	16	9	8	8
Nottinghamshire	16	14	16	12	15
South Wales	76	50	33	14	8
South Yorkshire	30	30	17	12	3
Staffordshire	9	24	22	14	13
Suffolk	14	13	12	8	3
Surrey	18	24	12	10	6

Police officer medical retirements[1] by force from 2000-01 to 2004-05[2]

Police force	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Full-time equivalent[3] 2004-05
Sussex	16	16	9	4	12
Thames Valley	20	17	29	17	8
Warwickshire	15	7	8	4	3
West Mercia	28	28	20	11	10
West Midlands	29	30	21	13	12
West Yorkshire	44	61	23	11	5
Wiltshire	5	3	15	2	6
Total	1,209	1,114	819	418	405

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC. HMIC have advised that these data will no longer be published in their annual report and that the data for 2004-05 would be the last series of data to be published.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.
[3] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Rules of Engagement

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on rules of engagement since 2006. [225164]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* There have been no such discussions. Operational tactics when using firearms are a matter for the police. The use of firearms by the police is closely governed by Guidelines produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers (available at):

www.westmercia.police.uk.

Chief Officers must decide in any given circumstances whether armed officers should be authorised to use their firearms. Once authorised to use firearms, it is for the individual officer to ensure they act within the law. The Criminal Law Act 1967 provides that the police may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to effect an arrest or to prevent crime.

Robbery: Detection Rates

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the overall detection rate for robbery was in each police force in each year since 1988. [219350]

Jacqui Smith: Detection rates at police force area level have been published for robbery since 1990 and are given in the following tables.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections which contribute to the overall detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable.

Table 1: Overall detection rates for robbery offences by police force area, 1990 to 2001-02

Police force area	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998-99[1]	1999-2000[2]	2000-01	2001-02
Avon and Somerset	37	27	20	19	28	25	23	25	23	15	14	10
Bedfordshire	22	18	20	17	20	16	26	32	29	20	23	17
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	44	40	36	40	39	28	53	35	21	25	25	22
Cheshire	60	52	50	41	55	54	60	58	40	36	39	32
Cleveland	29	42	40	33	32	31	25	25	19	19	17	18
Cumbria	54	68	48	48	50	51	51	60	61	51	38	43
Derbyshire	41	33	40	34	29	27	29	29	31	30	24	24
Devon and Cornwall	45	40	31	33	34	30	38	41	37	42	40	34
Dorset	45	45	35	45	42	39	26	37	29	28	19	19
Durham	40	47	52	46	47	54	50	52	38	43	42	36
Dyfed-Powys	67	50	90	65	68	96	81	91	93	68	91	77
Essex	37	32	36	30	33	27	24	38	33	28	26	25
Gloucestershire	42	46	32	33	34	32	25	29	36	29	34	26
Greater Manchester	32	29	27	24	29	22	19	20	19	15	14	14
Gwent	68	58	53	56	51	63	63	68	33	32	31	58
Hampshire	51	39	34	35	33	32	41	36	38	36	32	30
Hertfordshire	37	37	27	49	34	39	39	40	38	28	34	31
Humberside	40	41	21	24	22	23	26	26	27	17	20	17
Kent	39	42	37	34	37	34	43	40	44	42	26	27
Lancashire	56	55	44	43	40	38	38	28	31	30	25	24

Table 1: Overall detection rates for robbery offences by police force area, 1990 to 2001-02

Police force area	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998-99[1]	1999-2000[2]	2000-01	2001-02
Leicestershire	44	34	37	30	32	37	30	36	32	29	27	21
Lincolnshire	44	53	38	42	45	40	44	58	41	43	38	32
London, City of	34	28	37	20	48	28	21	35	24	14	42	17
Merseyside	21	21	19	21	17	20	24	25	23	18	21	19
Metropolitan Police	15	13	13	14	14	18	22	24	16	12	12	11
Norfolk	50	47	44	32	46	34	31	40	35	28	26	24
Northamptonshire	37	28	36	41	33	33	41	38	45	40	33	32
Northumbria	37	27	28	25	23	26	29	35	32	32	29	32
North Wales	51	54	39	53	52	51	42	52	44	47	39	34
North Yorkshire	46	50	45	38	40	39	40	49	41	34	33	29
Nottinghamshire	36	33	28	32	30	32	33	27	21	21	18	16
South Wales	56	43	42	47	38	42	49	61	46	46	45	42
South Yorkshire	41	36	32	26	31	27	29	33	35	27	28	24
Staffordshire	50	46	34	30	44	34	38	40	32	25	24	20
Suffolk	53	50	47	44	44	47	42	55	43	53	45	40
Surrey	31	33	32	34	34	35	47	35	48	32	36	32
Sussex	36	28	30	29	27	31	35	35	27	22	23	27
Thames Valley	41	29	29	30	27	31	35	35	30	23	25	26
Warwickshire	43	35	38	31	35	28	32	38	29	30	28	30
West Mercia	59	53	49	42	45	36	41	45	39	36	34	28
West Midlands	41	31	24	22	19	18	20	22	23	18	21	21
West Yorkshire	37	31	27	28	28	25	39	39	27	28	23	20
Wiltshire	48	40	28	41	34	46	44	49	40	29	29	32

n/a = Not available.
[1] The number of crimes detected in that financial year using the expanded coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.
[2] New instructions which clarified the rules for detecting crime were introduced on 1 April 1999.

Table 2: Overall detection rates for robbery offences by police force area, 2002-03 to 2007-08[1]

Police force area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Avon and Somerset	13	15	15	17	19	20
Bedfordshire	19	15	23	19	12	16
British Transport Police	24	28	29	30	36	39
Cambridgeshire	20	19	24	25	18	20
Cheshire	25	27	24	22	26	23
Cleveland	19	17	19	20	23	26
Cumbria	38	31	29	45	34	44
Derbyshire	24	19	26	25	22	26
Devon and Cornwall	23	27	25	27	22	28
Dorset	17	19	25	31	27	28
Durham	29	33	25	30	30	40
Dyfed-Powys	75	50	37	70	43	57
Essex	21	21	23	24	24	21
Gloucestershire	41	27	34	31	30	36
Greater Manchester	15	17	18	19	19	19
Gwent	41	38	39	35	22	18
Hampshire	31	26	33	18	27	28
Hertfordshire	31	34	36	24	25	27
Humberside	14	17	20	18	19	25
Kent	24	23	15	18	18	20
Lancashire	30	32	34	32	39	36
Leicestershire	23	18	18	21	25	25
Lincolnshire	28	23	23	20	26	21
London, City of	24	14	29	23	20	20
Merseyside	23	26	27	15	20	24
Metropolitan Police	13	12	15	14	14	16
Norfolk	23	23	16	26	16	20
Northamptonshire	24	19	22	20	19	26
Northumbria	28	26	22	25	31	31
North Wales	25	36	40	36	34	38
North Yorkshire	21	32	31	31	26	29
Nottinghamshire	19	18	21	18	14	18
South Wales	31	36	43	29	27	33
South Yorkshire	23	31	32	33	30	36

Table 2: Overall detection rates for robbery offences by police force area, 2002-03 to 2007-08[1]

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Staffordshire	24	23	27	28	25	18
Suffolk	34	31	29	25	27	27
Surrey	26	28	31	34	32	26
Sussex	20	21	23	20	21	22
Thames Valley	29	25	24	23	20	19
Warwickshire	27	28	24	16	18	24
West Mercia	25	31	40	34	31	22
West Midlands	23	23	21	20	20	21
West Yorkshire	26	28	32	28	28	27
Wiltshire	25	28	31	27	16	34

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.
[2] It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the overall detection rate have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Resignations

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who transferred to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency as sworn constables have since left the agency in each month since its inception; and what proportion of *(a)* sworn constables and *(b)* all staff this represents. [219432]

Jacqui Smith: Since 1 April 2006, 231 sworn constables have left SOCA. This number includes 58 retirements and 35 who remained as secondees on transfer to SOCA and who have since returned to their home force on conclusion of their secondment. In addition, some former police officers who resigned from SOCA at the end of their 30 years' service have rejoined the organisation, including in the most recent recruitment process.

The following tables detail these data on a monthly basis against *(a)* those holding powers of a constable, and *(b)* all staff in SOCA.

Excluding seconded police officers returning to force

Month left	*Numbers of former police officers directly employed at 1 April 2006 leaving each month (including retirements)*	*Number leaving as a percentage of former police officers directly employed at start*	*Number leaving as a percentage of total direct employees at start*
2006			
August	2	0.18	0.05
September	4	0.36	0.10
October	3	0.27	0.07
November	4	0.36	0.10
December	4	0.36	0.10
2007			
January	7	0.63	0.17
February	4	0.36	0.10
March	9	0.82	0.22
April	7	0.63	0.17
May	8	0.72	0.20
June	7	0.63	0.17
July	6	0.54	0.15
August	10	0.91	0.24
September	17	1.54	0.42
October	4	0.36	0.10
November	7	0.63	0.17
December	12	1.09	0.29
2008			
January	12	1.09	0.29
February	13	1.18	0.32
March	10	0.91	0.24
April	27	2.45	0.66
May	11	1.00	0.27
June	8	0.72	0.20
Total who left	196	17.75	4.80

Including seconded police officers returned to force

	Numbers of former police officers directly employed or transferred on secondment at 1 April 2006, leaving each month	*Number leaving as a percentage of former police officers at start*	*Number leaving as a percentage of total direct employees at start*
2006			
July	2	0.18	0.05
August	2	0.18	0.05
September	5	0.44	0.12
October	3	0.26	0.07
November	4	0.35	0.10
December	4	0.35	0.10
2007			
January	9	0.79	0.22
February	6	0.53	0.15
March	9	0.79	0.22
April	9	0.79	0.22
May	10	0.88	0.25
June	8	0.70	0.20
July	6	0.53	0.15
August	17	1.54	0.42
September	23	2.08	0.57
October	4	0.36	0.10
November	9	0.82	0.22
December	13	1.18	0.32
2008			
January	13	1.18	0.32
February	14	1.27	0.34
March	11	1.00	0.27
April	29	2.63	0.71
May	12	1.07	0.29
June	9	0.80	0.22
Total who left	231	20.66	5.68

Analysis of ex police officer leaving reasons

Reason	*Number*
Medically retired	2
Normal retirement	56
Resignation	138
Total	196

Surveillance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases involving alleged abuse of intrusive surveillance powers by *(a)* local councils and *(b)* central Government-controlled bodies were investigated by the Investigatory Powers Tribunal in each year since it was established; and if she will make a statement. [225189]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given by the then Minister of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, East (Mr. McNulty), to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1374W. It is not the Investigatory Powers Tribunal's practice to publish detailed breakdowns by type or body of complaint, in order to preserve the confidence of people using it that their complaint will be handled confidentially. The Investigatory Powers Tribunal is independent of Government and subject to statutory rules which prevent it from disclosing information to an extent, or in a manner, that is contrary to the public interest. Only law enforcement and intelligences agencies and certain detention authorities can conduct intrusive surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Act 2000, but any valid complaint would be investigated by the Investigatory Powers Tribunal.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps for redress are available to people who believe they have suffered from an abuse of intrusive surveillance powers by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* central Government-controlled bodies; and if she will make a statement. [225224]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* Under section 65 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, the Investigatory Powers Tribunal is the responsible body for any complaint about public authority conduct under the Act. If it determines that there has been a contravention of the Act, it is required to notify the complainant and in certain circumstances make a report to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. It may, if appropriate, quash any warrant or authorisation, order the destruction of relevant material and award compensation or make any other order as they think fit.

Surveillance: Local Authorities

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on whether local authorities should use directed surveillance powers to monitor dog fouling; and if she will make a statement. [225632]

Mr. Coaker: The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') requires that the use of any covert investigatory techniques must be necessary and proportionate to what the relevant public authority seeks to achieve. It is a matter for each authority to determine what is proportionate in the circumstances. All authorisations must on request be made available for scrutiny to the independent Commissioners established under RIPA. In the case of local authorities' use of directed surveillance, oversight is undertaken by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will instruct the Office of Surveillance Commissioners to assess whether surveillance powers have been used by local authorities to generate income from fines. [225633]

Mr. Coaker: The Office of Surveillance Commissioners was established by statute to provide independent oversight of public authorities using covert investigatory powers. It is not appropriate for Ministers to issue instructions to the Office of Surveillance Commissioners. Under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 local authorities may use directed surveillance for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or disorder providing it is necessary and proportionate for them to do so.

Surveillance: Telecommunications

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests by law enforcement agencies were made to telephone and internet companies for details of calls or internet use in each year since 2001. [225871]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The information is not held centrally.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Child Minding

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 949W, on children: day care, (1) how many and what proportion of daycare settings in the *(a)* 10 per cent. most deprived, *(b)* 10 per cent. least deprived, *(c)* five per cent. most deprived and *(d)* five per cent. least deprived local authority area were awarded ratings of inadequate following an Ofsted inspection in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08; [223712]

(2) how many and what proportion of childminders were deemed inadequate by Ofsted in the *(a)* 10 per cent. most deprived and *(b)* 10 per cent. least deprived local authority areas in each year since such inspections began; [223745]

(3) how many and what proportion of childminders were deemed inadequate by Ofsted in each region in each year since such inspections began; [223746]

(4) how many registered childminders there were in the *(a)* 10 per cent. most deprived and *(b)* 10 per cent. least deprived local authority areas in each quarter of the last three years. [223748]

Beverley Hughes: These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to the hon. Member and copies of her replies will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 23 September 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Our source for identifying the 5% and 10% most and least deprived local authorities is the Government's "Indices of Deprivation 2007" (an index published once every three years), as taken from the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government (www.communities.gov.uk)

I should alert you to some potential confusion with the figures. In order to capture all inadequate ratings following an Ofsted inspection, the data provided give the number and proportion of providers that were inadequate at any time during that period. Since a provider may receive a re-inspection and no longer be inadequate by the end of the year, these figures do not reflect our other publications which only capture the most recent inspection of a provider. This information is presented in Table A.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Inspection data for day care providers between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2008

		Inspections between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006		
LA deprivation level	*Total day care at 1 April 2006*	*Total inspected 2005/06*	*Total inspected 2005/06 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 2005/06 (%)*
10 per cent. least deprived	4,740	1,109	86	7.8
10 per cent. most deprived	2,522	611	60	9.8

		Inspections between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007		
LA deprivation level	*Total day care at 1 April 2007*	*Total inspected 2006/07*	*Total inspected 2006/07 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 2006/07 (%)*
10 per cent. least deprived	4,682	1,679	101	6.0
10 per cent. most deprived	2,552	803	65	8.1

		Inspections between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008		
LA deprivation level	*Total day care at 1 April 2008*	*Total inspected 2007/08*	*Total inspected 2007/08 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 2007/08 (%)*
10 per cent. least deprived	4,712	1,786	109	6.1
10 per cent. most deprived	2,547	908	77	8.5

		Inspections between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006		
LA deprivation level	*Total day care at 1 April 2004/06*	*Total inspected 2005/06*	*Total inspected 2005/06 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 2005/06 (%)*
5 per cent. least deprived	1,636	380	25	6.6
5 per cent. most deprived	1,078	242	22	9.1

		Inspections between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007		
LA deprivation level	*Total day care at 1 April 2007*	*Total inspected 2006/07*	*Total inspected 2006/07 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 2006/07 (%)*
5 per cent. least deprived	1,593	593	35	5.9
5 per cent. most deprived	1,096	318	21	6.6

		Inspections between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.		
LA deprivation level	*Total day care at 1 April 2008*	*Total inspected 2007/08*	*Total inspected 2007/08 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 2007/08 (%)*
5 per cent. least deprived	1,608	570	27	4.7
5 per cent. most deprived	1,109	381	38	10.0

Notes:

1. All inspection data taken from the Regulatory Support Application (RSA) database as it was at 1 April 2008. Active provider data taken from the RSA database as it was at 6 April 2006, 30 March 2007 and 1 April 2008 respectively. LA deprivation level based on Indices of Deprivation 2007 on the government communities website (www.communities.gov.uk).The majority of the data underpinning the Indices of Deprivation 2007 represents 2005 although some data covers a number of years, for example an average of 2003-05.
2. In order to capture all inadequate ratings following an Ofsted inspection, the data provided give the number and proportion of providers that were inadequate at any time during the time period. Since a provider may receive a re-inspection and no longer be inadequate by the end of the year, these figures do not reflect our other publications which only capture the most recent inspection of a provider.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 23 September 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Our source for identifying both the 10% most and least deprived local authorities is the Government's "Indices of Deprivation 2007" (an index published once every three years), as taken from the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government (www.communities.gov.uk).

Ofsted has been responsible for the inspection of childminders since September 2001. However during the first 18 months we carried out transition inspections where we made an assessment of whether registration should continue and did not give quality grades. We started to judge quality and grade this from April 2003. There are, however, issues relating to the structure of the database used to store inspection outcomes during the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2005. These issues make it difficult to present accurate and comprehensive data relating to this period. Furthermore, the inspection framework changed in April 2005 with the result that it is difficult to make meaningful comparisons with the period 2003-05. The inspection data in this response, therefore, relate to the current inspection framework and covers the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008.

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Table A: Inspection data for childminders between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2008

		Inspections between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006		
LA deprivation level	*Total childminders at 1 April 2004/06*	*Total inspected 2005/06*	*Total inspected 2005/06 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 2005/06 (%)*
10 per cent. least deprived	11,550	2,880	74	2.6
10 per cent. most deprived	4,363	1,209	31	2.6

		Inspections between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007		
LA deprivation level	*Total childminders at 1 April 07*	*Total inspected 2006/07*	*Total inspected 2006/07 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 2006/07 (%)*
10 per cent. least deprived	11,215	2,844	91	3.2
10 per cent. most deprived	4,464	819	46	5.6

		Inspections between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008		
LA deprivation level	*Total childminders at 1 April 2008*	*Total inspected 2007/08*	*Total inspected 2007/08 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 07/08 (%)*
10 per cent. least deprived	10,418	3,330	217	6.5
10 per cent. most deprived	4,114	1,216	123	10.1

Notes:
1. All inspection data taken from the Regulatory Support Application (RSA) database as it was at 1 April 2008. Active provider data taken from the RSA database as it was at 6 April 2006, 30 March 2007 and 1 April 2008 respectively. LA deprivation level based on Indices of Deprivation 2007 on the government communities website (www.communities.gov.uk). The majority of the data underpinning the Indices of Deprivation 2007 represents 2005 although some data covers a number of years, for example an average of 2003-05.
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A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Inspection data for childminders between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2008, by Government Office region (GOR)

		Inspections between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006		
Government office region	*Total childminders at 1 April 2006*	*Total inspected 2005/06*	*Total inspected 2005/06 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 2005/06*
North East	3,565	772	42	5.4
South West England	6,673	1,852	52	2.8
West Midlands	6,222	2,090	55	2.6
Outer London	8,179	1,855	80	4.3
East of England	8,543	2,435	77	3.2
East Midlands	5,901	1,538	53	3.4
North West England	8,320	2,103	76	3.6
South East England	13,758	3,448	74	2.1
Inner London	3,648	687	43	6.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,813	1,752	55	3.1

		Inspections between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007		
Government office region	*Total childminders at 1 April 2007*	*Total inspected 2006/07*	*Total inspected 2006/07 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 2006/07*
North East	3,474	755	48	6.4
South West England	6,387	1,786	59	3.3
West Midlands	6,154	1,698	75	4.4
Outer London	8,008	1,268	72	5.7
East of England	8,522	2,652	95	3.6
East Midlands	5,863	1,608	72	4.5
North West England	8,072	1,894	91	4.8
South East England	13,218	3,265	91	2.8
Inner London	3,693	518	41	7.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,534	1,599	93	5.8

		Inspections between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008		
Government office region	*Total childminders at 1 April 2008*	*Total inspected 2007/08*	*Total inspected 2007/08 inadequate*	*Proportion inadequate 2007/08*
North East	3,128	1,211	97	8.0
South West England	6,021	1,799	99	5.5
West Midlands	5,574	1,394	109	7.8
Outer London	7,440	2,562	219	8.5
East of England	7,728	2,101	167	7.9
East Midlands	5,449	1,693	150	8.9

Government office region	Total childminders at 1 April 2008	Inspections between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008: Total inspected 2007/08	Total inspected 2007/08 inadequate	Proportion inadequate 2007/08
North West England	7,350	2,624	203	7.7
South East England	12,452	3,780	183	4.8
Inner London	3,536	1,153	109	9.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,970	2,142	189	8.8

Notes:
1. All inspection data taken from the Regulatory Support Application (RSA) database as it was at 1 April 2008. Active provider data taken from the RSA database as it was at 6 April 2006, 30 March 2007 and 1 April 2008 respectively.
2. In order to capture all inadequate ratings following an Ofsted inspection, the data provided give the number and proportion of providers that were inadequate at any time during the time period. Since a provider may receive a re-inspection and no longer be inadequate by the end of the year, these figures do not reflect our other publications which only capture the most recent inspection of a provider.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 23 September 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The information you require is presented in Tables A and B attached.

Our source for identifying the 10% most and least deprived local authorities is the Government's "Indices of Deprivation 2007" (an index published once every three years), as taken from the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government (www.communities.oov.uk).

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Number of registered childminders in the 10 per cent. most deprived local authorities

		2005				2006				2007				2008
LA code	LA name	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar
330	Birmingham	983	996	1004	999	1000	1033	1074	1073	1049	1024	1006	942	918
890	Blackpool	154	162	162	164	165	161	153	152	147	133	124	126	118
204	Hackney	224	227	232	240	249	247	252	264	270	265	271	273	268
206	Islington	254	251	250	257	265	269	279	284	280	273	270	269	262
810	Kingston upon Hull	208	226	234	236	242	246	249	243	235	231	211	202	191
340	Knowsley	113	125	129	128	127	130	135	134	129	126	134	129	126
341	Liverpool	232	237	237	237	234	234	228	230	236	237	232	228	230
352	Manchester	400	405	409	418	429	426	429	442	438	424	412	415	424
806	Middlesbrough	154	154	157	163	160	155	151	152	154	153	148	140	138
316	Newham	351	361	363	368	378	377	382	391	380	372	374	365	363
892	Nottingham City	272	281	281	286	283	281	293	298	292	294	301	300	286
355	Salford	253	266	267	275	272	280	284	295	296	292	299	304	297
333	Sandwell	205	206	208	209	210	216	217	221	218	211	205	197	186
861	Stoke on Trent	249	244	240	239	232	230	228	230	224	215	213	208	197
211	Tower Hamlets	119	118	121	121	117	119	124	131	116	117	119	115	110
	Total	4171	4259	4294	4340	4363	4404	4478	4530	4464	4367	4319	4213	4114

Table B: Number of registered childminders in the 10 per cent. least deprived local authorities

		2005				2006				2007				2008
LA code	LA name	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar
800	Bath & NE Somerset	259	260	261	262	262	257	243	240	220	210	201	199	195
867	Bracknell Forest	272	271	272	276	284	290	292	301	299	307	302	296	292
825	Buckinghamshire	969	972	981	991	987	970	957	985	951	914	929	887	865
873	Cambridgeshire	930	947	967	962	952	967	957	960	954	938	893	864	836
850	Hampshire	2517	2558	2549	2559	2569	2595	2553	2575	2519	2448	2418	2360	2337
855	Leicestershire	1013	1006	1011	1004	993	988	982	999	991	973	980	958	938
931	Oxfordshire	991	1004	999	996	991	982	966	1000	965	948	952	935	899
318	Richmond upon Thames	353	346	351	355	348	354	352	344	324	320	322	307	294
857	Rutland	62	62	60	64	60	52	50	52	57	55	56	52	53
803	South Gloucestershire	390	398	390	380	372	370	363	363	343	337	328	321	311
936	Surrey	1855	1897	1883	1918	1950	1959	1935	1940	1866	1840	1854	1833	1785
869	West Berkshire (Newbury)	302	305	298	296	303	290	283	282	269	270	270	273	271

Table B: Number of registered childminders in the 10 per cent. least deprived local authorities

		2005				2006				2007				2008
LA code	*LA name*	*Mar*	*Jun*	*Sep*	*Dec*	*Mar*	*Jun*	*Sep*	*Dec*	*Mar*	*Jun*	*Sep*	*Dec*	*Mar*
865	Wiltshire	805	811	810	808	803	802	826	844	819	786	790	778	759
868	Windsor & Maidenhead	302	303	307	306	299	290	283	286	259	252	242	237	226
872	Wokingham	353	367	375	380	377	376	378	378	379	377	379	371	357
	Total	11373	11507	11514	11557	11550	11542	11420	11549	11215	10975	10916	10671	10418

Children

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy that whenever his Department publishes *(a)* regulations and *(b)* guidance relating to children and young persons he will also publish a young persons' version. [226840]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is our current policy to consider the needs of our audience for each communication, including with children and young people, and look for the most effective, best value way to reach them on each occasion.

Children: Research

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve research standards in trials which involve schoolchildren. [225911]

Beverley Hughes: The Department ensures that all the research it funds goes through an appropriate process of methodological and ethical scrutiny to ensure that children's safety and well-being are protected and that the research results are robust. In addition, the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) vets all applications made by academics and others to conduct research involving local authority children's services departments, whether funded by the Department or not.

Culture: Curriculum

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what subject matter he expects to be covered in cultural studies under the citizenship curriculum in schools; and if he will make a statement. [226761]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The citizenship curriculum does not prescribe the detailed content of what should be taught, but does encourage young people to explore cultural issues, identity, diversity and values in relation to their own lives alongside important concepts like democracy, justice, right and responsibility. It also encourages students to understand and learn about connections between the diverse cultures and communities in the UK and the wider world. The curriculum encourages a flexible approach to allow teachers to plan lessons which reflect their local context and meet their learners' needs, capabilities and aspirations.

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226517]

Ed Balls: All campaigns have an evaluation mechanism such as response targets (calls to a campaign telephone number or hits on a website). In addition, where the advertising spend is more substantial, campaigns are additionally evaluated through independent customer research which tracks the campaign impact against its objectives, measuring levels of customer awareness and exploring shifts in attitude and behaviour among the target audience.

All departmental advertising is bought on our behalf by the Central Office of Information (COI), which is able to use its purchasing power to negotiate significant discounts, ensuring that our advertising budgets are cost effective in the amount of media they purchase.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226413]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the Department annual non-pensionable bonuses were awarded on 1 April 2008 for the 12 month performance reporting period ending on 31 March 2008. The number of bonuses paid was 1,403 and the amount was £1.9 million.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226807]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My Department was established on 28 June 2007. The costs paid to recruitment consultants and for external recruitment advertising for senior civil service (SCS) recruitment from 28 June 2007 to the end of the financial year was £213,343. The recruitment consultants employed for these purposes were all drawn from the Cabinet Office Framework agreement.

The costs for vacancies below SCS level are not recorded in the form requested and figures could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has no agencies.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226902]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has received 773 named day questions so far this session. 396 (50 per cent.) questions have been answered on time.

Food Technology

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to encourage schools to enhance the skills of pupils to prepare and cook meals. [226379]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The new secondary curriculum introduced in September 2008 focuses food technology on practical cooking skills and knowledge. In January 2008, the Government announced that as part of their obesity strategy, food technology will be compulsory for 11 to 14-year-olds from September 2011. Cooking is already compulsory in primary schools.

The Licence to Cook programme delivers a training programme for teachers and supports collaboration between schools that offer food technology and those that currently do not so that more 11 to 16-year-olds have the opportunity to learn how to cook. We have also announced £150,000,000 ring fenced capital investment to build food technology teaching areas in secondary schools currently without facilities and £750,000 for new facilities fro teacher training providers to enable us to reach our target of providing around 800 training places for food technology teachers in the next three years.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils participated in an Aimhigher programme in each year since 2005, broken down by local authority; and if he will make a statement. [227015]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not currently available as requested on the number of pupils participating in Aimhigher activities. Information is gathered from Aimhigher partnerships via annual monitoring reports. Due to the diversity of activities delivered by partnerships and differences in recording those activities it has not been possible to collate these in a coherent and reliable format. We are currently working with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on the design of a new monitoring report which will enable us to gather data in a more consistent way.

Aimhigher is an important part of the Government's policies to widen participation in higher education amongst people from under-represented groups. Evidence from predecessor programmes shows that the type of activities supported by Aimhigher are successful in raising the aspirations of young people towards higher education, and their attainment whilst at school or college.

The Department, together with HEFCE, is working hard to improve the impact of Aimhigher further. Last year, HEFCE published guidance to help aimhigher partnerships target their interventions more effectively on young people from lower socio-economic groups and other priority target groups. More recently, guidance was published on how to develop programmes of interventions to build up commitment, rather than delivering one-off interventions.

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of 18 year olds from households with annual incomes *(a)* up to £20,817, *(b)* between £20,818 and £25,521, *(c)* between £25,522 and £30,810 and (iv) over £30,810 enrolled at (i) university, (ii) a Russell Group university and (iii) Oxford or Cambridge university in each of the last five years. [226040]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The annual income bands referred to in the question relate to the 2007/08 thresholds for education maintenance allowance (EMA) entitlement of £30 per week, £20 per week, £10 per week and no entitlement to EMA respectively. Neither the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills nor the Department for Children, Schools and Families holds information on the destinations of young people after they have been in receipt of an education maintenance allowance. The Learning and Skills Council are planning a future piece of work to analyse UCAS data on young people progressing into higher education, and to match that with those who have previously been in receipt of an EMA. A copy of that study, when available, will be placed in the House Library.

Learning Disability

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what provision is available outside normal school hours to assist children with learning difficulties with their studies. [226759]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are currently over 14,200 schools providing access to the core offer of extended services which includes opportunities to participate in study support activities as part of a varied menu activities from 8 am to 6 pm. By 2010 all schools will be extended schools.

£265.5 million in additional funding over the next couple of years will help ensure that extended schools activities are accessible to all children, including those with special educational needs. A pathfinder is under way, involving schools in 18 local authorities, with the aim of developing best practice and case studies for the full roll-out in 2010.

In addition, the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) has recently produced guidance on access to extended schools and children's centres for disabled children. It identifies practice that promotes access to, and participation in, extended services by disabled children so that they can enjoy the same opportunities as others.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department has issued on the number of feeder schools which may be named as part of a maintained school's admission criteria; [226829]

(2) what representations he has received from independent schools linked to maintained secondary schools on the question of remaining as named feeder schools; [226830]

(3) whether, under his proposed revised admissions guidance in circumstances where an independent Catholic school is one of 19 named Catholic feeder schools for admission to a Catholic maintained school, such an arrangement would be deemed to unfairly disadvantage children from deprived areas. [226831]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Guidance on school admissions is provided in the School Admissions Code. The code does not limit the number of feeder primary schools which maintained secondary schools can include in their admission arrangements. However, giving priority to children attending an independent school, whether faith-based or not, gives those children an unfair advantage over children living nearer the school and attending maintained schools.

In the recent consultation that ended on 2 October there were four representations from individual independent schools or their representative bodies relating directly to the feeder school proposal.

Schools: Catering

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools do not have a kitchen, broken down by local authority area. [225840]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information. However, the School Food Trust's annual survey which can be found at

www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/documents/annualsurvey3

includes information on catering facilities at national and regional but not local authority level. In response to the trust's latest survey LAs reported that, across England, 20 per cent. of primary and special schools had no kitchen facilities (data from 107 LAs). Virtually all secondary schools have kitchens (data from 100 LAs).

Schools: Health

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on health visitors; and if he will make a statement. [225967]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues on issues of mutual interest.

Special Educational Needs

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many communication support workers working with deaf children there are; and how many of these have a qualification in sign language equivalent to a Council for Advancement of Communication with Deaf People Level 3 qualification. [227391]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not collected centrally.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising Standards Agency: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who appoints those sitting on the Advertising Standards Agency; and for how long they are appointed. [227005]

Andy Burnham: The Chair of the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) is appointed by the Advertising Standards Board of Finance and the Broadcast Advertising Standards Board of Finance. Members of the ASA Council are appointed by the Chair and serve a three year term.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria are used to appoint those holding a position on the Advertising Standards Authority. [227008]

Andy Burnham: The ASA Council operates independently of the Government and the advertising industry, it consists of 15 members appointed by an independent Chairman, currently the right hon. Lord Smith of Finsbury, and criteria for appointment are therefore primarily a matter for the ASA. Council members are chosen for their breadth of experience and do not represent any sector or business. The membership covers both the non-broadcast and the broadcast remit.

Archery: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which competitive archery centres received funding originating from his Department in 2008. [224910]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England and UK Sport have advised that no awards from lottery or Exchequer funds have been made to competitive archery centres in 2008.

Art Works: Exports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 21-23W, on art works: exports, which objects *(a)* were purchased before the expiration of the bar and *(b)* were sold to overseas buyers in each year since 2002-03. [226314]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the published annual reports of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest, copies of which are available from the House Library. The information for *(a)* can be found in part I under 'items acquired'. The information for *(b)* is not available as it is neither

the Committee's—nor DCMS's—responsibility to record an object's movements in the event of an export licence being granted.

Big Lottery Fund: Recruitment

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by the Big Lottery Fund on advertising for recruitment in each of the last five years. [225470]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Big Lottery Fund has provided the following information about their advertising costs for recruitment in each of the last five years. These figures include all executive posts, but not public appointments.

Staff

Financial year	*Description*	*£*
2004-05	—	178,272.57
2005-06	Includes jobs relocated from London to Newcastle as part of restructuring.	352,515.92
2006-07	Includes jobs relocated from London to Birmingham, as part of restructuring.	450,198.62
2007-08	Includes chief executive recruitment as well as final phase of large recruitment campaign in Birmingham.	510,889.76

Committee Members

Financial Year	*Description*	*£*
2004-05	—	2,958.87
2005-06	New committee recruitment for initial merger of Community Fund and New Opportunities Fund	48,617.22
2006-07	—	2,617.14
2007-08	New committee recruitment following legal merger, including country committees.	43,367.52

British Grand Prix

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 34W, on the British Grand Prix, what subjects were discussed at the meeting with Bernie Ecclestone on 18 March. [226235]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 34W.

Cycling: Facilities

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which indoor BMX tracks are available for public use. [224913]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that as far as they are aware, there are no permanent indoor BMX tracks of the type suitable for competition racing available for public use in the UK.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date his Department's All Staff Conference took place; how many staff attended; how many Ministers attended; and what the total cost of the event was. [225467]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport held its 2008 staff conference on 5 February. The total cost of the event was £21,345 (excluding VAT), two Ministers attended the conference and 437 staff booked a place at the event.

Departmental Equality

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to improve his Department's workforce equality monitoring as set out in his Department's corporate plan. [225679]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In May 2008 Human and Business Resources did a monitoring exercise on behalf of the Department to encourage staff to declare across all the equality strands. This was supported by the departmental diversity champion in a message that went out to all staff. In addition all new staff coming into the Department must complete an equal opportunities monitoring form.

Departmental Land

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the land to the north of the British Library was sold for; and how much was retained by his Department. [224765]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The asset known as "the Land to the North of the British Library" was sold for £85.018 million. The department will retain £39.8 million with the balance being surrendered to the Treasury.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department received from its non-departmental public bodies in rental income in each of the last 10 years. [225288]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In each of the last 10 years my Department has received the following rental income from its NDPBs.

		Retained by DCMS £	Surrendered to the Consolidated Fund	£
1998-99		—	British Museum	1,625,000
		—	English Heritage	863,000
		—	British Library	590,000
1999-2000		—	British Museum	375,000
		—	English Heritage	863,000
		—	British Library	645,000
2000-01		—	British Museum	176,000
		—	English Heritage	863,000
		—	British Library	42,000
2001-02		—	English Heritage	863,000
2002-03		—	English Heritage	863,000
2003-04		—	English Heritage	863,000
2004-05		—	English Heritage	863,000
2005-06		—	English Heritage	872,000
2006-07				0
2007-08	UK Film Council	174,213		0

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213727]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department completed a major refurbishment project in excess of £0.5 million in 2006-07.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and *(b)* Visit Britain spent on advertising appointments in each of the last five years. [225694]

Barbara Follett: The costs incurred on advertising ministerial public appointments to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and to VisitBritain were:

	£ total (excluding VAT)
(a) Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	
2004-05	Nil
2005-06	15,167
2006-07	Nil
2007-08	18,534
2008-09 (to date)	Nil
(b) VisitBritain	
2004-05	13,970
2005-06	10,019
2006-07	Nil
2007-08	Nil
2008-09 (to date)	Nil

These costs were all incurred by the Department and not by the NDPB.

Departmental Rents

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations rent property from his Department. [225287]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following organisations rent property from the Department:

Hunting Plc
Avanta London Ltd
UK Film Council

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department received in rental income in each of the last 10 years. [225289]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department received the following amounts in rental income in each of the last 10 years.

	Retained by DCMS £	Surrendered to the consolidated fund £
1998-99	—	3,078,000
1999-2000	—	1,883,000
2000-01	—	1,081,000
2001-02	—	863,000
2002-03	—	863,000
2003-04	1,917,334	863,000
2004-05	1,906,930	863,000
2005-06	1,771,132	872,000
2006-07	602,000	0
2007-08	656,213	0

Departmental Security

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on security in each year since 1997. [225675]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The amount spent on security since December 2005 is detailed as follows. Information prior to December 2005 is not available.

	Security guarding	£ Equipment, hardware and maintenance
December 2005 to March 2006	197,880	4,609
April 2006 to March 2007	642,945	31,427
April 2007 to March 2008	528,170	109,887

In 2007-08 the Department upgraded its CCTV and security systems.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date his Department conducted its annual staff survey for 2008; which organisation conducted the survey; and what estimate he has made of the cost of the survey. [225466]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS staff opinion surveys take place biennially and the last one was in 2007. ORC did the survey on behalf of the Department and the cost of the survey was £21,540.

Departmental Telephone Services

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which agencies or units for which his Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers which charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225720]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Neither the Department nor its Agency (The Royal Parks) have telephone numbers that charge more than the national call rate.

English Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many events were staged at English Heritage properties in each of the last five years; and what the total attendance at these events was. [225290]

Barbara Follett: The information requested, as provided by English Heritage, is set out in the table.

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		
	Events	Visitor Nos.	Events	Visitor Nos.	Events	Visitor Nos.	Events	Nos.	Events	Visitor Nos.	Events	Visitor Nos. to date	Visitor Nos. expected in 2008
London	91	9,039	163	15,003	63	20,356	86	24,636	39	18,832	58	17,759	19,100
East Midlands	85	35,573	76	24,150	43	29,176	28	29,137	22	29,934	18	23,480	24,358
East of England	44	79,485	78	82,038	36	21,220	43	36,500	36	62,287	32	55,885	77,290
South East	94	57,182	180	65,267	51	73,096	62	160,134	55	91,425	47	105,676	134,311
South West	96	44,524	172	52,883	56	62,710	72	105,943	55	61,298	51	59,681	68,949
West Midlands	49	41,693	90	33,186	52	51,067	35	52,493	38	47,730	48	35,561	51,150
Yorkshire	85	30,439	152	65,875	36	85,134	66	80,468	80	110,686	87	84,872	101,090
North West	18	10,931	54	9,531	30	19,487	25	16,044	16	21,278	18	14,165	19,450
North East	138	75,888	109	29,783	49	53,729	42	42,426	39	46,856	49	48,980	49,450
Festival of History	1	7,864	1	14,100	1	17,000	1	17,156	1	17,500	1	17,784	17,784
Total	701	392,618	1,075	391,816	417	432,975	480	564,937	401	507,626	409	463,823	562,932

English Heritage: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much English Heritage received in grant-in-aid in each year since 2000 in 2007-08 prices. [224960]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage grant in aid funding.

	£ million Grant in Aid funding in 2007-08 prices
Outturn:	
2000-01	143.5
2001-02	130.0
2002-03	132.9
2003-04	132.5
2004-05	138.1
2005-06	136.5
2006-07	145.4
2007-08	136.6
Plans:	
2008-09	125.1

Outturn figures are sourced from audited departmental resource accounts and converted to 2007-08 prices using HM Treasury deflator tables.

Football Foundation: Grants

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what grants have been given out by the Football Foundation for stadium improvements since its inception. [224583]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Football Foundation advise that their non-charitable arm, the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF), has awarded 1,043 grants worth £95,708,715 since 2000.

Football: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which professional and semi-professional football clubs have entered administration in the last three years. [224915]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Football Association has advised that the following professional or semi-professional clubs have entered administration since 1 October 2005.

Crawley Town Football and Social Club: entered administration 5 June 2006;

Farnborough Town Football and Social Club Ltd.: entered administration 26 July 2006;

Halifax Town Association Football Club Ltd.: entered administration 14 March 2008;

Leeds United Association Football Club Ltd.: entered administration 4 May 2007;

Luton Town Football Club Ltd.: entered administration 22 November 2007;

Rotherham United FC Ltd.: entered administration 18 March 2008; and

Bournemouth and Boscombe Athletic Community Football Club Ltd.: entered administration 7 February 2008.

National Lottery

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport at which 100 outlets the most Lottery ticket sales were made in the latest period for which figures are available. [224591]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We have been informed by the national lottery operator, Camelot, that information regarding retailers' sales is commercially sensitive and cannot be released.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in which 50 constituencies the most Lottery ticket sales were made in the latest period for which figures are available. [224592]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We have been informed that the national lottery operator, Camelot does not routinely collect ticket sales information on a constituency or postcode basis.

However, an analysis of sales data by postcode area is available in the Libraries of both Houses and provides information up to 2004.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what income his Department received from *(a)* the National Lottery Distribution Fund and *(b)* the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund in each year since 1997. [225283]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department receives income from the funds to recover grant-in-aid paid to the National Lottery Commission for the regulation of the Lottery and to recover costs incurred by DCMS in managing the funds;

(a) Income received by DCMS in each year from the National Lottery Distribution Fund is shown in the following table:

£000

	Recovery of National Lottery Commission Grant-in-Aid	Recovery of DCMS costs
1997-98	1,991	203
1998-99	1,815	589
1999-2000	2,740	161
2000-01	4,396	238
2001-02	2,809	228
2002-03	2,342	223
2003-04	3,765	243
2004-05	4,401	236
2005-06	7,921	245
2006-07	8,047	267
2007-08[1]	9,315	215

[1] The final allocation of costs between the NLDF and OLDF for 2007-08 is subject to completion of the audit of the fund accounts, which are expected to be published later in the year.

(b) Income received by DCMS in each year from the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund since it came into existence in 2005 is shown in the following table:

£000

	Recovery of National Lottery Commission Grant-in-Aid	Recovery of DCMS costs
2005-06	—	39
2006-07	700	58
2007-08[1]	1,026	79

[1] The final allocation of costs between the NLDF and OLDF for 2007-08 is subject to completion of the audit of the fund accounts, which are expected to be published later in the year.

National Lottery: Religion

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance he has issued to the National Lottery on the handling of funding bids from faith-based organisations; and if he will make a statement. [226757]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have issued policy directions to all UK and England Lottery distributors, copies of which have been placed in the House Libraries. They direct each distributor on the persons to whom, the purposes for which and the conditions subject to which it distributes any money. They include no specific direction on the handling of funding bids from faith-based organisations.

Olympic Games 2012: Football

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the Government's policy is on the formation of a football team to represent Great Britain at the London 2012 Olympics. [226136]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 2008]:* Any decision on whether a Great Britain football team participates at the London 2012 Olympic games is a matter for FIFA, the four Home Nations' Football Associations, and the British Olympic Association. Discussions between the various parties continue.

While we are proud of our individual traditions, the Government believe that a GB Olympic football team at the 2012 London Olympics could be very exciting for football fans and the general public.

The Government also believe this should not affect the rights of the four Home Nations to compete separately in international football tournaments—an important part of our footballing tradition.

Olympic Games: China

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government has taken to recognise the achievement of the Great Britain team in the 2008 Olympics. [225392]

Mr. Sutcliffe: An Olympic reception was hosted by the Prime Minister at Lancaster House on 3 October to recognise the achievements of the Olympic athletes at Beijing 2008 and there is to be a similar reception for Paralympic athletes at the British Museum.

Children's Play: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on children's play in each of the last three years; and how much he expects to spend on it in each of the next three years. [225683]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In each of the last three years my Department spent £500,000 on three contracts with national play organisations. These contracts ended in March of this year and following a tendering exercise we have awarded three new contracts relating to children's play, again totalling £500,000 in each of the next three years until March 2011.

Religious Buildings: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions English Heritage has had with representatives of *(a)* the Baptist Church, *(b)* the Methodist Church and *(c)* the United Reformed Church on making funds available for the repair of listed buildings in their ownership. [225418]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage has advised that it holds regular discussions with all faith groups and meets the main denominations, including the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, more formally through its Places of Worship Forum which sits four times a year. During the last nine months English Heritage's Head of Places of Worship Policy has had individual meetings with representatives of all three denominations. During these meetings funding was discussed in relation to English Heritage's Inspired! campaign. Denominations were also asked to encourage congregations to apply for Repair Grants for Places of Worship.

Sport England: Boxing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which boxing clubs received funds through Sport England in 2008. [224908]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that the following boxing clubs have received awards to date in 2008.

Lottery Funding:

The McCrory Foundation (Glenn McCrory International School of Boxing): £59,810.

Exchequer Funding (Community Club Development Programme):

The National Smelting Company Amateur Boxing Club: £68,000.

Sports: Disabled People

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been allocated to support *(a)* sports for disabled people and *(b)* disabled athletes from (i) the National Lottery and (ii) his Department as grant-in-aid in each year since 1997. [224977]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Funding in support of sports for disabled people, and for disabled athletes is provided by Sport England and UK Sport. Sport England and UK Sport have advised that detailed breakdowns of funding for individual athletes could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but they have provided figures for overall grants in each year since 1997 as follows:

Sport England

National lottery funding for disability sports since 1997

Financial year	*Sport*	*Total (£)*
1997-98	Disability sports	2,529,705
1998-99	Disability sports	1,356,236
1999-2000	Disability sports	6,570,802
2000-01	Disability sports	1,821,324
2001-02	Disability sports	7,096,401
2002-03	Disability sports	726,763
2003-04	Disability sports	5,405,069
2004-05	Disability sports	1,735,983
2005-06	Disability sports	343,254
2006-07	Disability sports	70,409
2007-08	Disability sports	636,903
2008-09	Disability sports—Playground to Podium	4,516,781
Grand total		32,809,630

Exchequer funding for disability sports since 1997 is as follows:

Financial year	*Organisation*	*Total (£)*
1997-98	English Federation of Disability Sport	[illegible]
1998-99	English Federation of Disability Sport	[illegible]
1999-2000	English Federation of Disability Sport	[illegible]
2000-01	English Federation of Disability Sport	[illegible]
2001-02	English Federation of Disability Sport	[illegible]

Financial year	Organisation	Total (£)
2002-03	English Federation of Disability Sport	1,050,000
	Panathlon Foundation	243,000
2003-04	English Federation of Disability Sport	1,050,000
	Panathlon Foundation	12,000
2004-05	English Federation of Disability Sport	1,050,000
	Panathlon Foundation	10,000
	National Council for School Sport	10,000
	London Sports Forum for Disabled People	2,000
2005-06	English Federation of Disability Sport	1,010,333
2006-07	English Federation of Disability Sport	951,066
	English Federation of Disability Sport	476,033
2007-08	English Federation of Disability Sport	1,100,000
Grand total		6,964,432

[1] No records

UK Sport

	Paralympic funding			
	Lottery		Exchequer	
	National governing body	Athletes personal award	National governing body	Total (£)
1997-98	222,000	487,000	0	709,000
1998-99	839,000	1,500,000	0	2,339,000
1999-2000	1,592,000	1,870,000	0	3,462,000
2000-01	1,689,000	1,862,000	0	3,551,000
2001-02	2,094,000	1,532,000	26,000	3,652,000
2002-03	2,182,000	1,566,000	50,000	3,798,000
2003-04	2,278,000	1,562,000	40,000	3,880,000
2004-05	2,356,000	1,681,000	40,000	4,077,000
2005-06	3,041,000	1,239,000	329,000	4,609,000
2006-07	3,612,000	1,793,000	1,226,000	6,631,000
2007-08	2,610,000	2,319,000	3,075,000	8,004,000
Total	22,515,000	17,411,000	4,786,000	44,712,000

Sports: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much unallocated sports grant-in-aid there is in his Department's budget; and what plans he has to make the money available for grassroots sports initiatives. [225334]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has no unallocated sports grant in aid.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided for the Physical Education, School Sport and Club Link Strategy in each of the last five years. [225685]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Physical Education, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) strategy has now evolved into the Physical Education and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP).

The following table shows DCMS investment to support PESSCL/PESSYP over 2003-08:

Financial year	£ million
2003-04	27
2004-05	38
2005-06	45
2006-07	44.75
2007-08	44.75

Sports: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Lottery funding was awarded to sport-related groups in Leeds in each of the last five years. [226381]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that it has made the following relevant Lottery awards in Leeds:

	Total (£)
2003-2004	7,138,166
2004-2005	2,833,963
2005-2006	3,028,476
2006-2007	7,393,195
2007-2008	2,799,863
Grand total	23,193,663

In addition, some grants made by the Big Lottery Fund may have benefited groups related to sport in Leeds.

Sports: Private Sector

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date Fast Track presented him with a business case for raising private sector support for elite sport; and on what date he approved the business case. [225707]

Andy Burnham: Fast Track Sales were appointed as the Department's official adviser in July this year. Fast Track are working with DCMS and UK Sport on the detail of the 'Medal Hopes' funding scheme which I hope will attract sponsorship from national, regional and local businesses to help realise the potential of those athletes on UK Sport's World Class Performance Programme. Further details of the scheme will be announced in due course.

State Visits: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on each state visit to the UK since 2003. [225461]

Andy Burnham: The costs recorded as being directly attributable to state visits in each financial year were as follows:

	Costs (£)
2003-04	343,000
2004-05	495,000
2005-06	360,000
2006-07	112,000
2007-08	172,000

Information is not held in the Department's accounting system on the costs of individual visits.

Taking Part Survey

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of expenditure incurred in conducting the most recent Taking Part survey; and what proportion of this expenditure was met by his Department's non-departmental public bodies. [225522]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* The Taking Part survey contract was renewed in May 2008 to extend the survey until 2010-11. Fieldwork under the new contract began in July.

The estimated cost across the three-year period (2008-09 to 2010-11) is £5.5 million. In addition to supporting core running costs of the survey, this total includes other costs such as additional analysis, piloting and questionnaire reviews.

The participating non-departmental public bodies make the following proportionate contributions to the total cost:

Contributions from NDPBs to Taking Part, 2008-09 to 2010-11

	Percentage
Arts Council England	16
English Heritage	4
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	4
Sport England	33

Wembley Stadium: Construction

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on monitoring progress in the construction of Wembley Stadium in each of the last three years; and if he will break down the costs by category. [225282]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS engaged Sport England to monitor the contract for the demolition and rebuilding of Wembley Stadium and provide confirmation that work relating to milestones had been satisfactorily completed and payment could be made by the Department. The cost of this monitoring in the last three years is as follows:

	£000
2005-06	75
2006-07	50
2007-08	75

As the monitoring only related to confirming that work had been satisfactorily completed there is no breakdown of costs into categories.

TREASURY

Banks: Republic of Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the consequences for UK-owned and based financial institutions of the decision by the Irish government to underwrite all deposits held by Irish banks. [226210]

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for the competitiveness of United Kingdom banks of the decision on 29 September of the Irish Government to place an unlimited two year guarantee on all deposits and some debts in six Irish banks. [225953]

Ian Pearson: A number of EU member states have recently increased the compensation limits of their deposit-guarantee schemes. Member states have now agreed to coordinate their actions and to take account of the cross-border effects of national decisions. The European Commission is bringing forward a proposal to promote convergence of deposit-guarantee schemes.

The competitiveness of UK banks should not be adversely affected by these moves As set out in the Chancellor's statement on financial markets to the House of Commons of 13 October, the Government are bringing forward specific and comprehensive measures to ensure the stability of the financial system and to protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers.

Child Trust Fund

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families on low incomes in Leeds West constituency have not claimed the Child Trust Fund initial payment since its introduction. [226325]

Ian Pearson: Eligibility to the Child Trust Fund is not subject to a claim. Where parents do not use the Government voucher to open an account themselves, HMRC opens an account for the child instead. All UK resident children in a Child Benefit award, who are born on or after 1 September 2002 and who are not subject to immigration control, will have a Child Trust Fund.

Credit Unions

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to promote saving with credit unions in the current financial circumstances. [226608]

Ian Pearson: The Government recognise the role that credit unions together with other mutual societies play in encouraging a savings culture among its members as well as the contribution they make in providing for greater choice and diversity in the financial services sector.

Government are currently consulting on proposals to amend credit union legislation The proposed changes, which include reform of the membership criteria and the ability to pay interest on members' savings, will serve to increase public awareness of the services provided by credit unions and to encourage their use.

Departmental Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of his Department's budget was used for research within its areas of responsibility in each of the last 10 years. [218072]

Angela Eagle: Details of the Treasury's administration budgets and spending on research and development are shown in the annual resource accounts.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226815]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers endeavour to answer written parliamentary questions promptly wherever possible. Of the 948 named day questions tabled to the Treasury in the current parliamentary session, 613 (64.7 per cent.) were answered on the day nominated by questioners.

Drugs: Smuggling

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of illegal drugs seized by HM Revenue and Customs in 2007-08. [227242]

Mr. Timms: In the financial year 2007-08 HMRC seized controlled drugs to the monetary value of approximately £292 million.

Economic Situation: Families

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps his Department has taken to assist families in the current economic climate; [226332]

(2) what recent steps his Department has taken to assist families in reducing their household bills. [226333]

Mr. Timms: On 11 September the Government announced a £1 billion package of energy efficiency measures, including at least 50 per cent. off a range of energy saving measures for all households, with 11 million of the most vulnerable households qualifying for these free of charge.

In addition, extra help for the vulnerable this winter will be provided by an increase in cold weather payments, which will triple from £8.50 to £25 for this winter.

On 2 September the Government announced reforms to the support for mortgage interest (SMI) system—which is paid to people on income support, pension credit and income-based jobseeker's allowance to help meet the interest payments on their mortgage—to more accurately reflect the value of people's property and reduce the waiting time before help from SMI is available. The Government will keep this system of support under review.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given to his question on 14 July 2008 by the Exchequer Secretary, *Official Report*, column 140W, and to the answer my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar) on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 631W.

Taxation: Aviation

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the carbon dioxide and *(b)* the nitrogen oxide emissions output for all fleet models of aircraft (i) currently using and (ii) predicted to use UK airports as part of its formulation of aviation duty policy; [224854]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the carbon dioxide emissions output during the landing and take off cycle and *(b)* the maximum take off weight of all fleet models of aircraft (i) using and (ii) predicted to use UK airports as part of its formulation of aviation duty policy; [224855]

(3) what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department for Transport on the use of *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions output during the landing and take off cycle and *(b)* the maximum take off weight as a basis for a per aeroplane aviation duty. [224856]

Angela Eagle: A formal consultation on aviation duty was published on 31 January 2008 and closed on 24 April 2008. This consultation considered all aspects of the operation of the duty including the basis, for which Maximum Take-Off Weight was the lead option. Two alternatives were also discussed and these were the CO_2 emissions and NOx emissions in the landing and take-off cycle (LTO).

170 consultation responses were received and these have been considered in the policy development process. Further analysis of the suitability of CO_2 emissions or NOx emissions in the LTO and of Maximum Take-Off Weight as the basis of the tax has been ongoing. DFT along with other Government Departments has been involved in the development of the duty. The details of the duty have not yet been set. The Chancellor plans to make an announcement in the autumn.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the rate of duty to apply to waste derived fuel oil from 1 November 2008 on *(a)* the volume of hazardous waste oil recovered and re-processed, *(b)* investment in the collection and re-processing of hazardous waste oil, *(c)* the manufacturing of secondary fuel product, *(d)* the volume of hazardous waste oil sent to landfill and *(e)* the volume of hazardous waste oil incinerated; [226448]

(2) what consideration he has given to exercise the discretion provided under the Energy Products Directive to observe differentiation in the application of hydrocarbon oil duty to reflect the quality and environmental impact of different waste derived fuel oils; [226449]

(3) if the Government will delay the introduction of hydrocarbon oil duty until the Waste Protocols Project is complete; [226450]

(4) if the Government will review its decision not to exercise the discretion provided under the Energy Products Directive to observe differentiation in the application of hydrocarbon oil duty to reflect the quality and environmental impact of different waste derived fuel oils once the Waste Protocols Project is complete; [226451]

(5) what consideration the Government has given to applying the 15 euro per kilogramme minimum required under the Energy Products Directive to duty on Waste Derived Fuel Oils. [226452]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Morley and Rothwell (Colin Challen) on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1059-60W.

Firearms: Smuggling

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many weapons HM Revenue and Customs prevented from entering the UK in 2007-08. [227244]

Mr. Timms: This information is published in annex F, page 110 of the HM Revenue and Customs Departmental Report 2008 which is available from the House of Commons Library and at the following web address:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/dept-report-2008.pdf.

Gift Aid Scheme

David Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long the gift aid transitional rate of 22 per cent. announced on 12 March 2008 will remain in place; and if he will make a statement. [227006]

Mr. Timms: The Chancellor announced at Budget 2008 that the Gift Aid transitional rate will be applied to qualifying donations from individual taxpayers made in the tax years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

HMRC

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the operational costs of the HMRC offices in *(a)* St. Helens, *(b)* Blackburn and *(c)* Chorley were in each of the last five years. [226576]

Mr. Timms: Most of the offices of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) house staff from a number of different business units. Individual business units are organised on national lines and are allocated budgets to meet their total costs and overheads for all their staff. It would be possible only at disproportionate cost to break down the costs of each business unit to individual office level.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the condition of the HMRC offices in *(a)* St. Helens and *(b)* Blackburn; and if he will make a statement. [226613]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) offices in St. Helens and Blackburn are occupied under the terms of an estates Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract. Under this contract HMRC's estates partner, Mapeley, is required to ensure that all HMRC accommodation meets the required contractual standards.

Managers: Fees and Charges

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid by employers in fees and subscriptions on behalf of their employees, as recorded in section M of P11D forms, in each of the last three years. [226621]

Mr. Timms: The taxable value of fees and subscriptions paid by employers on behalf of their employees is shown in table 4.1 "Recipients, taxable amount and income tax and NICs liability by each main category of benefit" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/taxable_benefits/menu.htm

Member: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon, sent on behalf of his constituent Mr. Mike Wetton, reference wet/jeh, dated 28 July 2008. [227238]

Yvette Cooper: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on revenue to the Exchequer of index linking capital gains and taxing them as income. [222938]

Mr. Timms: A broad estimate of the eventual steady state impact of index linking capital gains and taxing them as income, taking account of the likely taxpayer response to such a change, is additional receipts in the order of £2 billion a year by comparison with the capital gains tax regime contained in the Finance Act 2008. However, a reform of this kind would result in a large behavioural response and as such estimates are susceptible to a wide margin of error.

Working Tax Credit

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families with children have claimed the childcare element of the working tax credit in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* the City of Leeds since the element was introduced. [226324]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, estimates of the average number of families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit, by constituency and local authority, in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are provided in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with *(a)* regional management boards and *(b)* local authority-controlled companies' representatives on the apportionment of running costs in respect of the FiReControl project with regard to council tax; and if she will make a statement. [226671]

Mr. Khan: A consultation paper on inter-regional cost apportionment was issued on 7 August 2008 as Fire and Rescue Service Circular 41/2008. We have

invited responses to this consultation by 31 October 2008 and all of these will be considered before making a decision.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 787W, on council tax: valuation, what the evidential basis was for the observations on the number of consequentials made in the minutes of the meeting of the Programme Board. [225449]

John Healey: The observations referred to were made on the basis of ongoing feedback from staff who had been undertaking work, up to that time, on the revaluation.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if she will make a statement. [226806]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government can provide information on the total amount it has spent on recruitment including the use of consultants and external advertising for the last five financial years.

Financial year	*Recruitment spend (£)*
2003-04	397,827.12
2004-05	440,671.26
2005-06	349,630.64
2006-07	267,469.08
2007-08	516,468.48

The figures provided include the recruitment of staff into the senior civil service in the agencies of the Department.

We do not hold more detailed information on the amount spent by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* the Executive agencies on the use of (i) consultants and (ii) external advertising for the last five financial years.

The Department used the following recruitment consultants in the last five financial years:

2003-04

Succession Planning Associates Ltd.
Penna plc.
Capita Business Services Ltd.
Saxton Bampflyde Hever
KMC International
KPMG

2004-05

Succession Planning Associates Ltd.
Whitehead Mann Ltd.
Capita Business Services Ltd.
Hays Personnel Services
Centre Point Group Ltd.

2005-06

Penna plc.
Capita Business Services Ltd.
Centre Point Group Ltd.
Taylor-Stewart Ltd.
Northern Recruitment Group plc.

2006-07

Whitehead Mann Ltd.
KPMG
Penna plc.
Advanced Human Resources
TMP (UK) Ltd.
Personnel Assessment Ltd.

2007-08

Penna plc.
Whitehead Mann Ltd.
Advanced Human Resources
Allen Lane
Odgers Ray and Berndston
Capita Business Services Ltd.

Departmental Voluntary Work

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many departmental staff of each grade undertook voluntary work as set out in her Department's volunteering policy in the last 12 months; and how many days of volunteering those staff undertook *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average. [226121]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally and so there would be a disproportionate cost involved in collating information from individual line managers to provide an answer at this time.

In addition to our provisions for special leave to undertake certain types of voluntary roles, the main Department has recently launched a new volunteering scheme to promote a variety of development opportunities for all staff to enable them to play an active part in their community. As part of this scheme we have improved our information management system so that staff can record their volunteering activities, and we will therefore be able to provide related information in the future.

Domestic Visits: Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which parliamentary constituencies the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber has visited in her capacity as Minister for the region in the last 12 months. [226931]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* The Minister for Yorkshire and Humber has visited or attended meetings in the following constituencies since October 2007, some on more than one occasion.

The right hon. Caroline Flint—from 4 October 2007 to 26 January 2008

Constituency	*Number of times visited*
Bradford West	1
City of York	1
Don Valley	2
Doncaster Central	2
Doncaster North	1
Hull West and Hessle	1
Leeds Central	2
Scarborough and Whitby	1
Wakefield	1

The right hon. Rosie Winterton—from 27 January to 3 October 2008

Constituency	*Number of times visited*
Barnsley Central	1
Barnsley West and Penistone	2
Batley and Spen	1
Bradford North	1
Bradford South	2
Bradford West	2
City of York	8
Cleethorpes	1
Doncaster Central	3
Elmet	1
Great Grimsby	1
Harrogate and Knaresborough	2
Hemsworth	1
Leeds Central	27
Leeds North East	2
Morley and Rothwell	1
Pudsey	1
Richmond	1
Rotherham	1
Sheffield Central	3
Skipton and Ripon	2
Wakefield	6
Wentworth	1

Eco-Towns

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of proposals that the first eco-towns should go ahead in those sites which are urban extensions; how she expects eco-towns to provide sustainable community development models for future urban communities; and if she will make a statement. [226868]

Mr. Iain Wright: We want eco-towns to be exemplars in tackling the challenges of housing growth and climate change, and they will make an important contribution to the development of new technologies and practices, as well as promoting excellent new design. As such they will help inform the development of towns, cities, suburbs and urban extensions. More details about the standards that eco-towns must meet will be set out in the draft eco-towns Planning Policy Statement, which we will be publishing shortly for consultation.

Some of the schemes we are considering are close to urban areas, but an eco-town needs to have the critical mass to develop its own identity, standards and scope for innovation.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library the minutes of meetings of the FiReControl Project Business Case Assumptions Review Group held in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [226670]

Mr. Khan: I have placed copies of the summary notes for the three meetings held of the Business Case Assumptions Review Group in the House library. We published the Business Case Part 1: "The Regional Case" on the 8 July and a copy has been placed in the House Library. The Business Case Part 2: "The National Case" will be published later in the year and a copy placed in the Library.

Fire Services: Consultants

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department paid PA Consulting for work related to the FiReControl project in each quarter from 1 April 2005 to 30 September 2008; and if she will make a statement. [226637]

Mr. Khan: Total paid to PA Consulting for work relating to the FiReControl project from 1 April 2005 is £21.7 million broken down by quarter as follows:

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Q1	1,907,761.54	1,453,129.09	765,534.36	1,663,500.46
Q2	1,959,540.14	1,375,895.98	806,915.69	1,968,397.55
Q3	2,362,422.82	1,511,144.05	2,236,355.59	—
Q4	1,816,378.06	1,035,375.34	804,426.91	—
Total	8,046,102.56	5,375,544.46	4,613,232.55	3,631,898.01

Fire Services: Data Protection

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to safeguard sensitive data during transfer between fire and rescue services to central databases at data centres identified under the FiReControl project; and if she will make a statement. [226636]

Mr. Khan: The FiReControl project will ensure that all data transfers between Fire and Rescue Services and the FiReControl central database will be fully protected and encrypted, commensurate with the type of data being transferred, in alignment with HMG standards and good practice guidance written by CESG, the information assurance arm of GCHQ. In line with CESG guidance, technical measures are complemented with physical, personnel and procedural measures. These will be fully tested and assured, and subject to ongoing review to ensure a comprehensive approach to safeguard all information.

Fire Services: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on agency staff employed in respect of the FiReControl project since 1 April 2005, broken down by regional management board; and if she will make a statement. [226638]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally.

Homelessness

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households registered as homeless there were in each of the last eight quarters, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* age of applicant. [226460]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). These households are known as 'accepted' households.

Data on accepted households are provided in our quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, which is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. This includes acceptances by local authority, and acceptances by age band of applicant.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Acceptances by local authority are published in each quarter's Statistical Release, in the Supplementary Tables. In addition, a table showing these data for the last eight quarters has been placed in the Library.

Data on the age band of accepted applicants, for the last eight quarters, can be found in Table 10b of the most recent quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available in the Library. For ease, this table can be found as follows:

Acceptances by age of applicant

	Total number of households accepted during period	*16-24*	*% of total*	*25-44*	*% of total*	*45-59*	*% of total*	*60-64*	*% of total*	*65-74*	*% of total*	*75 and over*	*% of total*
2006													
Quarter 3	19,390	7,940	41	9,130	47	1,700	9	230	1	280	1	110	1
Quarter 4	17,310	7,010	40	8,240	48	1,530	9	200	1	230	1	100	1
2007													
Quarter 1	17,230	7,090	41	8,100	47	1,440	9	200	1	240	1	100	1
Quarter 2	15,960	6,520	41	7,510	47	1,450	9	180	1	220	1	90	1
Quarter 3	16,540	6,670	40	7,780	47	1,520	9	220	1	230	1	120	1
Quarter 4	15,240	5,930	39	7,410	49	1,440	9	190	1	180	1	100	1
2008													
Quarter 1	15,430	6,130	40	7,400	48	1,470	10	170	1	200	1	70	0
Quarter 2	15,680	6,200	40	7,630	49	1,430	9	170	1	180	1	80	1

Housing: Construction

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of reductions in land values for the Government's housebuilding targets. [226869]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government do not publish forecasts for private house building.

Housing: Heating

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on building regulations for domestic heating pumps; and if she will make a statement. [226881]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are different technologies associated with domestic heating pumps. The Department is engaging with a number of industry associations over the role of these technologies in buildings, especially as part of the 2010 review of Part L (energy efficiency) of the Building Regulations and the Code for Sustainable Homes, which set standards in terms of energy efficiency.

Housing: Low Incomes

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average length of time taken was for a family to be provided with suitable housing after entering the socially provided housing waiting list in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Yorkshire in each of the last two years; [226393]

(2) how many families were on the socially provided housing waiting list in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Yorkshire in each of the last 10 years. [226392]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information for average length of time on a housing waiting list is not collected centrally.

Information about social housing waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than families. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists. Information on the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists broken down by Government office region and local authority for 1997

to 2007 is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.xls

Copies of this table have been deposited in the Library of the House.

The number of households on local authorities' waiting lists for Yorkshire and the Humber, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Leeds from 1997 to 2007 is given in the following table.

Number of households on local authorities' housing waiting: 1997 to 2007

	Number of households on the waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)										
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Yorkshire and the Humber	173,750	175,610	172,220	164,360	150,390	162,370	195,740	197,650	227,430	247,500	270,070
North Yorkshire	9,370	8,430	8,580	6,910	7,130	7,660	9,180	11,010	12,300	12,980	13,510
South Yorkshire	81,450	89,490	83,720	89,720	73,510	81,850	93,290	86,200	104,010	119,720	123,560
West Yorkshire	54,790	50,650	49,100	43,280	44,790	49,190	65,800	73,210	83,720	90,770	102,000
Leeds	19,640	18,850	27,010	22,770	25,320	26,640	31,110	30,960	30,700	23,850	24,780

Note:
As reported by local authorities. Excludes households looking for transfers. Rounded to the nearest 10.
(Leeds forms part of West Yorkshire)
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

Local authorities in England report the number of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual housing strategy statistical appendix returns. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need; it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been assessed against the Code for Sustainable Homes since 1 May 2008; how many of these homes have been issued with *(a)* design stage and *(b)* post-construction certificates for levels (i) 3, (ii) 4 and (iii) 6 of the Code; and if she will break down these figures by type of landlord. [226969]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is approximately a six month time lag between registration and the design stage assessment, with a further time lag between the time the design is assessed and graded and when the home is built and the post-construction assessment carried out.

382 homes have been assessed against the Code for Sustainable Homes since 7 April 2008 (which is the date that we received data). Of these 337 received design stage certificates at code level 3 and none at code levels 4 and 6.

There are now 11 homes with post construction certificates; nine at code level 3 and two at code level 4. We do not currently hold data on whether the property is freehold or the status of the tenancy.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Code for Sustainable Homes assessors in each region have been fully accredited; and how many are in training. [226970]

Mr. Iain Wright: As of 13 September 2008 there were 884 licensed code assessors; in addition there are 981 people that have either completed the training or will have by the end of the year but have yet to become licensed assessors. We currently do not hold data on the numbers of assessors in each region.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the internal refurbishment of a property, where the physical refurbishment affects the notional rent that the property would attract, should routinely lead to the carrying out of revised valuation by the Valuation Office Agency prior to the 2010 business rates revaluation. [225654]

John Healey: The Valuation Officer has a statutory duty to maintain a correct rating list. When he/she becomes aware that an internal physical refurbishment of a property has increased its rateable value, under the statutory definition, he/she is obliged to alter the current rating list accordingly. The rateable value must have regard to the market conditions at the antecedent valuation date (1 April 2003 for the current rating lists), and will take effect from the completion of the works.

A refurbishment which addresses disrepair may not warrant an increase in the rateable value since the statutory definition already assumes a reasonable state of repair.

Housing: Yorkshire and the Humber

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many first-time buyers purchased a home in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Yorkshire in each of the last 10 years. [226380]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government do not hold the information requested.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders does publish data on number of mortgages to first-time buyers for the UK but not at more local geographies. The UK data can be found at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/filegrab/lML2.xls?ref=4624

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requests for meetings her Department has received from businesses operating at ports to discuss changes to the rules on business rates for businesses on ports land and the backdating of that tax. [226652]

John Healey: The Department has received no request for a meeting from businesses operating at ports. The Department has received 14 letters from businesses, local authorities and MPs on behalf of their constituents setting out the concerns of businesses within the ports. The Government are aware of the concerns and are looking at the situation.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses located in British ports have gone into liquidation since the issuing of business rate demands for port tenants; and what their names are. [226654]

John Healey: The Department does not collect such information.

Parking: Income

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net income from parking was for each local authority in England in each year between 1996 and 2003. [225640]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the requested information on the gross and net income on parking services by each local authority in England between 1998-99 and 2001-02.

Figures for 1997-98 have been presented separately owing to complexities arising from the extensive local government reorganisation which took place around that time.

For 1996-97, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 6 October, *Official Report*, column 354W.

For 2002-03 and 2003-04, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Regent's Park and Kensington, North (Ms Buck) on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 941W.

Aggregate information for England is published in editions of Local Government Financial Statistics and the information is drawn from the Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

Regional Ministers

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of the *(a)* private offices, *(b)* salaries, *(c)* administration costs and *(d)* travel expenses, broken down by (i) first class rail, (ii) standard class rail, (iii) first class air travel, (iv) economy class air travel and (v) taxis of Regional Ministers since their appointment has been; and if she will make a statement. [226753]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 448W. There have been some slight amendments to the figures collected in May as follows:

Government office	*Grade and FTE*
West Midlands	FTE increased from 1.7 to 1.9 Added: 0.2 Administrative Officer
South East	FTE increased from 2.0 to 2.55 Now: 0.2 Grade 6, 0.75 Grade 7, 0.4 Higher Executive Officer, 1.0 Executive Officer, 0.2 Administrative Officer
South West	FTE increased from 1.0 to 1.9 Now: 0.2 Grade 6, 0.4 Grade 7, 0.5 Higher Executive Officer, 0.8 Executive Officer

Regional Ministers do not receive a salary for carrying out their duties over and above that given to them as Departmental Ministers.

This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

CLG incurred costs of £4,324.78 for driver services for Regional Ministers' travel in the region. As all other travel expenses were covered by their home Departments, this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Rented Housing: Private Sector

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to protect tenants who are faced with the possibility of eviction when their buy-to-let landlord becomes insolvent. [225929]

Mr. Iain Wright: We believe it is good practice where possible for the lender to let the tenancy run and use the rental payments to cover the mortgage repayments until the end of the tenancy or where the tenancy has become a periodic tenancy to give the statutory two month notice period as a minimum.

We have commissioned an independent review of the private rented sector, from Julie Rugg and David Rhodes, Centre for Housing Policy, University of York. It will report on 23 October and we will consider any recommendations the report makes in relation to landlord insolvency.

Taxis

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if she will make a statement. [227046]

Mr. Khan: Total amounts claimed in taxi expenses by officials in this Department and its direct predecessors are as follows:

	Core department	£ Government offices
2002-03	115,226	—
2003-04	146,071	10,606
2004-05	158,506	43,318
2005-06	149,382	47,140
2006-07	121,564	41,427
2007-08	109,444	40,657

Figures for the Government offices in 2002-03 are not available and for 2003-04 are for part of the year only. Figures for taxi expenditure incurred by the Department's Executive agencies are not available centrally.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans his Department has to require colleges to accept targets from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for adult education courses which are not themselves funded by the LSC; and if he will make a statement. [225050]

Mr. Simon: We are committed to continuing to increase Government investment in adult skills. Alongside this investment from Government there needs to be a shared responsibility for investment in skills and training by learners and employers, especially where they realise the greatest private returns.

Increasing income through fees, including activity not funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is a key part of ensuring there is a full range of provision available to adult learners.

The LSC have developed a consistent national framework designed to help colleges understand the scope they have for increasing fee income. While some colleges have responded very proactively and innovatively to this agenda, increasing both income and choice for learners, other colleges have not seen it as a priority.

We have therefore been working with the LSC, the Learning and Skills Improvement Service and the Association of Colleges to create a package of support consisting of good practice guides, a fees toolkit and workshops. This support is designed to help all colleges understand how they can adopt fee strategies which have seen other colleges expand fee income and increase learner choice.

Alongside this the LSC have introduced fee income targets to ensure that the profile and importance of this agenda is clear to all colleges. This will also ensure that we are able to recognise the overall volume of education and training delivered by FE colleges outside of LSC funding.

Apprentices: Newcastle-under-Lyme

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many apprenticeships were *(a)* available and *(b)* taken up in (i) Newcastle-under-Lyme and (ii) North Staffordshire in 2007-08; [226603]

(2) what apprenticeships were *(a)* made available and *(b)* taken up in (i) Newcastle-under-Lyme and (ii) North Staffordshire in 2007-08. [226604]

Mr. Simon: The latest fully audited data that we have is for the 2006/07 academic year. Figures are not directly available for North Staffordshire. Figures have been provided for Staffordshire local authority.

Apprenticeships are demand-led and employer responsive; therefore the number of apprenticeship places available is determined by the number of places employers are able to offer and subject to learner demand. That is why, in terms of monitoring performance, we focus on the number of people who actually start on an apprenticeship programme.

"World-class Apprenticeships" confirmed our commitment to stimulate a greater supply of apprenticeship places with employers. This is a key element of the remit of the new National Apprenticeship Service and its National Vacancy Matching Service which will help employers advertise apprenticeship vacancies and enable prospective apprentices to apply for them online.

Table 1 shows apprenticeship starts for 2006/07 for Staffordshire and Newcastle-Under-Lyme, and nationally.

Table 2 lists the apprenticeship starts in Staffordshire in 2006/07 by Sector Framework of Learning.

Table 3 lists the apprenticeship starts in Newcastle-under-Lyme by Sector Framework of Learning.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in 2006/07 by geographical area

Area	*Starts*
Nationally	184,000
Staffordshire[1]	3,590
Newcastle-under-Lyme[2]	450

[1] Staffordshire local authority based on learner's home postcode.
[2] Newcastle-under-Lyme parliamentary constituency based on learner's home postcode.
Note:
Figures include apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships and a very small number of higher level apprenticeships.
Source:
ILR work-based learning data.

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in 2006/07 in Staffordshire local authority by Sector Framework of Learning

Sector Framework of Learning	*Starts*
Accountancy	110
Active Leisure and Learning	60
Agricultural Crops and Livestock	10
Amenity Horticulture	30
Animal Care	[1]—
Automotive Industry	10
Aviation	[1]—
Barbering	[1]—
Building Services Engineering Technicians	[1]—
Business Administration	340
Children's Care Learning and Development	230
Communications Technologies (Telecoms)	10
Construction	400
Contact Centres	110
Customer Service	330
Dental Nursing	20
Driving Goods Vehicles	10
Electrical and Electronic Servicing	[1]—
Electricity Industry	[1]—

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in 2006/07 in Staffordshire local authority by Sector Framework of Learning

Sector Framework of Learning	Starts
Electrotechnical	110
Emergency Fire Service Operations	[1]
Engineering	180
Engineering Construction	[1]
Equine Industry	20
Farriery	[1]
Fencing	[1]
Floristry	[1]
Food and Drink Manufacturing Operations	[1]
Furniture Industry	[1]
Gas Industry	20
Glass Industry	[1]
Hairdressing	270
Health and Social Care	140
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	10
Hospitality and Catering	360
Industrial Applications	40
IT Services and Development	20
IT User	60
Land-based Service Engineering	10
Mail Services	[1]
Management	60
Meat and Poultry Processing	10
Optical Advisor	[1]
Pharmacy Technicians	[1]
Plumbing	100
Polymer Processing and Signmaking	[1]
Printing	10
Property Services	[1]
Retail	160
Security Industry	[1]
Sporting Excellence	10
Storage and Warehousing	40
Teaching Assistants	[1]
Textiles	[1]
Transport Engineering and Maintenance	[1]
Travel and Tourism Services Leisure and Business	30
Trees and Timber	[1]
Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	20
Vehicle Fitting	10
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	160
Vehicle Parts Operations	10
Vehicle Sales	[1]
Veterinary Nursing	20
Wholesale, Distribution, Warehousing and Storage	40
Total	3,590

[1] Represents a number less than 10.
Notes:
1. Staffordshire local authority based on learner's home postcode
2. Figures include apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships, and a very small number of higher level apprenticeships.
3. Figures may not sum to the total due to rounding.
Source:
ILR work-based learning data.

Table 3: Apprenticeship starts in 2006/07 in Newcastle-under-Lyme parliamentary constituency by Sector Framework of Learning

Sector Framework of Learning	Starts
Accountancy	20
Active Leisure and Learning	[1]
Agricultural Crops and Livestock	[1]
Amenity Horticulture	[1]

Table 3: Apprenticeship starts in 2006/07 in Newcastle-under-Lyme parliamentary constituency by Sector Framework of Learning

Sector Framework of Learning	Starts
Animal Care	[1]
Automotive Industry	[1]
Building Services Engineering Technicians	[1]
Business Administration	40
Children's Care Learning and Development	30
Construction	40
Contact Centres	50
Customer Service	50
Dental Nursing	[1]
Electrotechnical	10
Engineering	20
Equine Industry	[1]
Furniture Industry	[1]
Gas Industry	[1]
Hairdressing	30
Health and Social Care	10
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	[1]
Hospitality and Catering	30
Industrial Applications	10
IT Services and Development	[1]
IT User	20
Management	10
Plumbing	10
Retail	20
Storage and Warehousing	[1]
Textiles	[1]
Travel and Tourism Services Leisure and Business	[1]
Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	[1]
Vehicle Fitting	[1]
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	20
Vehicle Parts Operations	[1]
Wholesale, Distribution, Warehousing and Storage	[1]
Total	450

[1] Represents a number less than 10.
Notes:
1. Newcastle-under-Lyme parliamentary constituency based on learner's home postcode
2. Figures include apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships, and a very small number of higher level apprenticeships.
3. Figures may not sum to the total due to rounding.
Source:
ILR work-based learning data.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many apprenticeships are available in *(a)* Newcastle-under-Lyme and *(b)* North Staffordshire, broken down by sector; and if he will list each such apprenticeship; [226606]

(2) how many apprenticeships were offered in each sector in *(a)* Newcastle-under-Lyme and *(b)* North Staffordshire in 2007-08. [226607]

Mr. Simon: The latest fully audited data that we have is for the 2006/07 academic year. Figures are not directly available for North Staffordshire. Figures have been provided for Staffordshire local authority.

Apprenticeships are demand-led and employer responsive; therefore the number of apprenticeship places available is determined by the number of places employers are able to offer and subject to learner demand. That is

why, in terms of monitoring performance, we focus on the number of people who actually start an apprenticeship programme.

"World-class Apprenticeships" confirmed our commitment to stimulate a greater supply of apprenticeship places with employers. This is a key element of the remit of the new National Apprenticeship Service and its National Vacancy Matching Service which will help employers advertise apprenticeships vacancies and enable prospective apprentices to apply for them online.

Table 1 lists the apprenticeship starts in Staffordshire in 2006-07 by Sector Framework of Learning.

Table 2 lists the apprenticeship starts in Newcastle-Under-Lyme by Sector Framework of Learning.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in 2006-07 in Staffordshire local authority by sector framework of learning

Sector Framework of Learning	*Starts*
Accountancy	110
Active Leisure and Learning	60
Agricultural Crops and Livestock	10
Amenity Horticulture	30
Animal Care	[1]
Automotive Industry	10
Aviation	[1]
Barbering	[1]
Building Services Engineering Technicians	[1]
Business Administration	340
Children's Care Learning and Development	230
Communications Technologies (Telecoms)	10
Construction	400
Contact Centres	110
Customer Service	330
Dental Nursing	20
Driving Goods Vehicles	10
Electrical and Electronic Servicing	[1]
Electricity Industry	[1]
Electrotechnical	110
Emergency Fire Service Operations	[1]
Engineering	180
Engineering Construction	[1]
Equine Industry	20
Farriery	[1]
Fencing	[1]
Floristry	[1]
Food and Drink Manufacturing Operations	[1]
Furniture Industry	[1]
Gas Industry	20
Glass Industry	[1]
Hairdressing	270
Health and Social Care	140
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	10
Hospitality and Catering	360
Industrial Applications	40
IT Services and Development	20
IT User	60
Land-based Service Engineering	10
Mail Services	[1]
Management	60
Meat and Poultry Processing	10
Optical Advisor	[1]
Pharmacy Technicians	[1]
Plumbing	100
Polymer Processing and Signmaking	[1]
Printing	10
Property Services	[1]
Retail	160
Security Industry	[1]
Sporting Excellence	10
Storage and Warehousing	40
Teaching Assistants	[1]
Textiles	[1]
Transport Engineering and Maintenance	[1]
Travel and Tourism Services Leisure and Business	30
Trees and Timber	[1]
Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	20
Vehicle Fitting	10
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	160
Vehicle Parts Operations	10
Vehicle Sales	[1]
Veterinary Nursing	20
Wholesale, Distribution, Warehousing and Storage	40
Total	3,590

[1] Represents a number less than 10. *Notes:*
1. Staffordshire local authority based on learner's home postcode
2. Figures include apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships, and a very small number of higher level apprenticeships.
3. Figures may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Source:
ILR Work-Based Learning Data.

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in 2006-07 in Newcastle-Under-Lyme parliamentary constituency by sector framework of learning

Sector Framework of Learning	*Starts*
Accountancy	20
Active Leisure and Learning	[1]
Agricultural Crops and Livestock	[1]
Amenity Horticulture	[1]
Animal Care	[1]
Automotive Industry	[1]
Building Services Engineering Technicians	[1]
Business Administration	40
Children's Care Learning and Development	30
Construction	40
Contact Centres	50
Customer Service	50
Dental Nursing	[1]
Electrotechnical	10
Engineering	20
Equine Industry	[1]
Furniture Industry	[1]
Gas Industry	[1]
Hairdressing	30
Health and Social Care	10
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	[1]
Hospitality and Catering	30
Industrial Applications	10
IT Services and Development	[1]
IT User	20
Management	10
Plumbing	10
Retail	80
Storage and Warehousing	[1]
Textiles	[1]

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in 2006-07 in Newcastle-Under-Lyme parliamentary constituency by sector framework of learning

Sector Framework of Learning	Starts
Travel and Tourism Services Leisure and Business	[1]—
Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	[1]—
Vehicle Fitting	[1]—
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	20
Vehicle Parts Operations	[1]—
Wholesale, Distribution, Warehousing and Storage	[1]—
Total	450

[1] Represents a number less than 10.

Notes:
1. Newcastle-Under-Lyme Parliamentary Constituency based on learner's home postcode.
2. Figures include apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships, and a very small number of higher level apprenticeships.
3. Figures may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Source:
ILR Work-Based Learning Data.

Arts: Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made in establishing a knowledge transfer network for the creative industries. [227178]

Mr. Lammy: The formation of the Creative Industries Knowledge Transfer Network, Creative Industries Technology Innovation Network (CITIN), was announced by the Technology Strategy Board in May this year, and the KTN began work in August. It will be managed by the University of the Arts London, Imperial College London, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and Tiga, the trade association for games developers.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226422]

Mr. Simon: In the Department annual non-pensionable bonuses are awarded on the 1 April 2008 for the 12 month performance reporting period ending on 31 March 2008. The number of non-pensionable bonuses paid to members of the senior civil service was 41 at a total cost of £312,000.

The pay award for staff below the SCS has not been agreed and therefore no awards have been made yet.

Disabled People

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in his (i) Department and (ii) executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff. [220185]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich East (Mr. Watson) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 651W.

Graduates: Debts

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many students who left *(a)* Leeds University and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan University since 2005 are not earning the £15,000 threshold to begin paying back their student loans; [226387]

(2) what the average wage was of graduates of *(a)* Leeds University and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan University of (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [226388]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects information on graduates' salaries through the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. The DLHE Survey captures the first destinations of graduates, six months after leaving university. The most recent information available is for those who graduated in 2006/07 who were surveyed in early 2008.

In 2006/07, 51 per cent. of UK domiciled leavers who obtained first degree qualifications and entered full-time paid employment in the UK disclosed their salary. 36 per cent. from the University of Leeds and 66 per cent. from Leeds Metropolitan University disclosed their salary. HESA therefore advises caution in analysis of leavers by salary. Respondents are asked to report their salary to the nearest £1,000.

The latest available information on salaries of graduates, six months after graduation, is shown in the following tables. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in July 2009.

Table 1: Number of UK domiciled leavers who obtained first degree qualifications by destination six months after graduation academic years 2005/06 and 2006/07

Higher education institution	Destination	2005/06	2006/07
University of Leeds[1]	Total with known salary[2]	765	870
	Of which:		
	Number earning under £15,000	200	195
Leeds Metropolitan University[1]	Total with known salary[2]	955	1070
	Of which:		
	Number earning under £15,000	245	265
All UK HEIs	Total with known salary[2]	53,640	54,140
	Of which:		

Table 1: Number of UK domiciled leavers who obtained first degree qualifications by destination six months after graduation academic years 2005/06 and 2006/07

Higher education institution	Destination	2005/06	2006/07
	Number earning under £15,000	13,315	11,095

[1] In 2006/07 36 per cent. of graduates from the University of Leeds, who responded to the DLHE survey, disclosed their salary.
[2] Who are in full-time paid employment in the UK.
[3] In 2006/07 66 per cent. of graduates from Leeds Metropolitan University, who responded to the DLHE survey, disclosed their salary.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey.

Table 2: Median salaries of UK domiciled leavers who obtained first degree qualifications and entered full-time paid employment in the UK—academic years 2005/06 and 2006/07

£

Higher education institution	2005/06	2006/07
University of Leeds[1]	18,000	18,000
Leeds Metropolitan University[2]	17,000	18,000
All UK HEIs	18,000	19,000

[1] In 2006/07 36 per cent. of graduates from the University of Leeds, who responded to the DLHE survey, disclosed their salary.
[2] In 2006/07 66 per cent. of graduates from Leeds Metropolitan University, who responded to the DLHE survey, disclosed their salary.
Source:
Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey.

Around 80 per cent. of eligible students choose to take out maintenance loans. Therefore not all leavers have student loans.

Repayments of income-contingent student loans are linked to a borrower's income and not the amount owed. Repayment is at 9 per cent. of annual income over a threshold of £15,000, collected through the tax system, usually by employers each pay date for borrowers on PAYE, in the same way as income tax and national insurance contributions. This allows a greater degree of career flexibility—for example, if someone takes a career break, becomes unemployed or takes lower paid employment. In addition borrowers can voluntarily make repayments direct to the Student Loans Company, even if their income is below the repayment threshold.

Recent graduates will typically have lower salaries when entering the labour market than they will receive later in their careers. For students graduating in 2002/03 the first degree median salaries increased from £16,000 at the Early Survey (six months after graduation) to £22,000 at the Longitudinal Survey (three and a half years after graduation), an increase of 37.5 per cent. This compares with an increase in average earnings across the whole economy of around 11.5 per cent. over the same period.

Higher Education

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will convene a Joint Ministerial Committee with counterparts in the devolved administrations to co-ordinate policies and action in the field of higher education. [226265]

Mr. Lammy: A good deal of higher education policy is devolved. It is for different Administrations to decide their policies and they will not always agree on the right way forward. For example, we believe it is fair to ask undergraduates to make a contribution to the cost of their higher education, and that the revenue provided by their fees is important if universities are to deliver world-class teaching. The Scottish Executive has different policies.

Where there is a continuing UK-wide arrangement, notably in the Research Councils' funding, officials and ministers work closely with their counterparts in the devolved Administrations. Where matters are devolved, there are appropriate levels of contact between DIUS and the devolved Administrations to discuss developments and share information, which reflects the importance the Government place on the relationship between the Administrations.

My predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), appeared before the Welsh Affairs Select Committee on 15 July 2008. In a letter sent to the chair of that Committee following the Committee meeting, he stated that he was willing to take part in meetings with his counterparts in the devolved Administrations. I agree with this approach.

Higher Education: Sustainable Development

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will hold discussions with representatives of universities to encourage the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices in universities. [226719]

Mr. Lammy: Yes. Ministers have already held a number of such discussions and we expect to hold more in future.

During the past year we have asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to ensure that by the end of this spending review period all universities in receipt of capital funding should have plans to reduce carbon emissions. In future, performance against these plans should be a factor in future capital allocations.

We have also agreed with HEFCE a key performance target for the Council's strategic plan as follows:

> to finalise during 2008-09 in consultation with stakeholders a revised strategy for sustainable development in HE, which features a realistic target for carbon reductions which are sufficient to ensure satisfactory progress towards the Government targets of reducing carbon emissions by 60 per cent. against 1990 levels by 2050 and at least 26 per cent by 2020.

Reducing emissions from universities is important in its own right, but we believe it is particularly valuable because universities can provide examples of best practice to inspire businesses, other public services and community groups. We recognise that universities are autonomous institutions, and we want to work in partnership with them to address the sustainability agenda.

The University of Gloucestershire is one of the universities with which we have discussed these issues. It is an institution that reflects strong commitment to the sustainability agenda through its management, teaching and research activities.

Physics: Research

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what UK research and development projects are being undertaken into *(a)* quantum crypto-graphics and *(b)* electro-optics; how much funding such projects are planned to receive from the public purse in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [225376]

Mr. Lammy: The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), funded through the Science and Innovation Budgets, support a portfolio of research grants in these areas.

Grants as of October 2008 – EPSRC

	Number of grants	*Value (£)*
(a) Quantum crypto-graphics	74	57,605,310
(b) Electro optics	28	14,077,542

In addition, EPSRC is currently funding 69 grants totalling £53,093,462 in the area of optoelectronics which is a separate but related branch of technology to electro-optics. Information on individual grants funded by EPSRC is available from 'EPSRC Grants on the Web' at

http://gow.epsrc.ac.uk/.

From 2004 to 2008, the Technology Strategy Board contributed £3,903,712 to projects that explicitly mention electro optics or optoelectronics in their title or abstract under the Key Technology Area of Electronics, Photonics and Electrical Systems.

The Technology Strategy Board has not identified any projects containing the words 'quantum crypto-graphics' in the title or abstract.

Sector Skills Councils

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what records his Department holds of non-registered sector skills bodies; and whether such bodies will be included in the current review and relicensing procedure for registered sector skills councils. [227029]

Mr. Simon: The Department holds records for Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) in connection with their licensed status, and for Industry Training Boards in relation to their levy arrangements and non-departmental public body status. The Department does not keep systematic records for non-registered sector skill bodies. The records that are kept on such bodies relate to correspondence and meetings arising from specific approaches from organisations.

All sector skill bodies will have an opportunity to provide evidence and commentary on the relicensing of individual SSCs. The UK Commission for Employment and Skills has a website that includes a link for employers and stakeholders to post views on how SSCs are performing. The relicensing process will include a rigorous assessment of each SSC by independent third party assessors. The relicensing process is for existing Sector Skills Councils only. The performance of other sector bodies is not part of the assessment process.

Vocational Education

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many people started courses under train to gain in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority; [226588]

(2) how many people are expected to start courses under train to gain in 2010-11, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority; [226587]

Mr. Simon: Since it was rolled out nationally in 2006 over 101,000 employers have been engaged, over 570,000 learners have started a learning programme and over 290,000 qualifications have been achieved. Recent independent evaluations of the service show that both employer and employee satisfaction with their experience of train to gain is high.

A breakdown of the number of people starting courses through train to gain in 2006-07 since the programme began in April 2006 is set out in Table 1 by region and local authority (2006-07 is the latest year we have fully audited data for). We do not have this information for 2010-11. In the demand-led skills system that the Government have created, the geographical distribution of train to gain learners is driven by employer demand. In addition the Learning and Skills Councils annual statement of priorities, which will be published soon, will set out their spending plans and targets to 2010-11. In 2010-11 we plan to invest over £1 billion of public funding through the service, to help employers invest in their businesses by investing in the skills of their employees.

Table 1: Train to gain starts from April 2006 to July 2007 by region and local authority

Region/Local authority	*Train to gain starts*
East Midlands	
Derby	1,100
Derbyshire	4,100
Leicester	2,700
Leicestershire	3,100
Lincolnshire	3,100
Northamptonshire	3,400
Nottingham	1,700
Nottinghamshire	3,500
	100
East Midlands Total	22,800
East of England	
Bedfordshire	1,300
Cambridgeshire	2,700
Essex	5,500
Hertfordshire	3,400
Luton	900
Norfolk	2,700
Peterborough	1,000
Southend on Sea	800
Suffolk	4,900
Thurrock	700
East of England Total	20,900

Table 1: Train to gain starts from April 2006 to July 2007 by region and local authority

Region/Local authority	Train to gain starts
Greater London	
Barking and Dagenham	900
Barnet	900
Bexley	900
Brent	1,400
Bromley	700
Camden	300
City of London	0
Croydon	1,200
Ealing	1,200
Enfield	800
Greenwich	1,300
Hackney	1,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	400
Haringey	900
Harrow	600
Havering	900
Hillingdon	900
Hounslow	900
Islington	500
Kensington and Chelsea	200
Kingston upon Thames	200
Lambeth	900
Lewisham	1,300
Merton	500
Newham	1,700
Redbridge	900
Richmond upon Thames	200
Southwark	1,200
Sutton	500
Tower Hamlets	800
Waltham Forest	1,200
Wandsworth	600
Westminster	400
Greater London Total	26,500
North East	
Darlington	600
Durham	4,300
Gateshead	1,500
Hartlepool	600
Middlesbrough	1,100
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,500
North Tyneside	1,300
Northumberland	1,800
Redcar and Cleveland	1,200
South Tyneside	1,300
Stockton-on-Tees	1,200
Sunderland	2,200
North East Total	18,600
North West	
Blackburn with Darwen	1,100
Blackpool	1,200
Bolton	1,500
Bury	1,000
Cheshire	2,500
Cumbria	2,500
Halton	700
Knowsley	900
Lancashire	7,200
Liverpool	2,400
Manchester	3,200
Oldham	1,800
Rochdale	1,500
Salford	1,700
Sefton	1,200
St Helens	1,000
Stockport	1,200
Tameside	1,400
Trafford	800
Warrington	900
Wigan	2,200
Wirral	1,700
North West Total	39,700
South East	
Bracknell Forest	300
Brighton and Hove	600
Buckinghamshire	900
East Sussex	1,400
Hampshire	3,200
Isle of Wight	800
Kent	6,000
Medway	1,500
Milton Keynes	700
Oxfordshire	1,600
Portsmouth	600
Reading	600
Slough	500
Southampton	800
Surrey	1,700
West Berkshire	600
West Sussex	1,900
Windsor and Maidenhead	200
Wokingham	300
South East Total	24,200
South West	
Bath and North East Somerset	400
Bournemouth	700
Bristol	1,200
Cornwall	2,100
Devon	3,100
Dorset	1,100
Gloucestershire	1,700
Isles of Scilly	0
North Somerset	500
Plymouth	1,300
Poole	400
Somerset	2,000
South Gloucestershire	600
Swindon	1,000
Torbay	800
Wiltshire	2,000
South West Total	18,800
West Midlands	
Birmingham	6,000
Coventry	1,700
Dudley	2,000
Herefordshire	900
Sandwell	2,800
Shropshire	1,600
Solihull	900
Staffordshire	4,400

Table 1: Train to gain starts from April 2006 to July 2007 by region and local authority

Region/Local authority	*Train to gain starts*
Stoke-on-Trent	2,000
Telford and Wrekin	1,500
Walsall	2,000
Warwickshire	2,100
Wolverhampton	2,300
Worcestershire	2,600
West Midlands Total	32,800
Yorkshire and the Humber	
Barnsley	1,700
Bradford	2,100
Calderdale	1,000
Doncaster	2,600
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,800
Kingston upon Hull	1,200
Kirklees	1,900
Leeds	3,200
North East Lincolnshire	600
North Lincolnshire	1,200
North Yorkshire	1,800
Rotherham	1,900
Sheffield	2,800
Wakefield	2,600
York	300
Yorkshire and the Humber Total	26,700
Not defined	7,900
Grand total	238,700

Notes:
1. Figures presented here are for the 16 month period April 2006 to July 2007.
2. Region and local authority is based on learner's postcode.
3. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.
4. '-' indicates a figure of less than 10.

Source:
WBL ILR and ETP database

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on consultancy fees in each year since the Department was created. [225578]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 838W. Consultancy spend for the year 2007-08 is £246 million.

Departmental Fraud

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many instances of fraud were recorded in his Department in each of the last five years; what the monetary value of the fraud was in each case; what the nature of the fraud was in each case; and how many of his Department's staff were *(a)* reprimanded and *(b)* dismissed as a result in each case. [226117]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) collates details of recorded fraud and passes the results to HM Treasury for inclusion in their annual fraud report, which may be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://62.164.176.164/fraud_public_spending_and_reporting.htm

Departmental Internet

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the *(a)* design and *(b)* maintenance of the Race Against Global Poverty section of his Department's website (i) has cost and (ii) is projected to cost. [226114]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The total cost of designing the 'Race Against Global Poverty' section of DFID's website was £83,221.17. Maintenance costs are £10,109.70 per annum for database hosting, usage statistics and bandwidth.

This section of the DFID website is designed to assist pupils in the subjects of ICT, geography and citizenship, as part of the secondary school teaching curriculum. Since it was launched on 30 June 2008 there have been 54,962 user sessions on this section of the website.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the total cost was of each contract. [224868]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department's media monitoring is supplied by Energy Data Service Ltd. (EDS) and the Media Monitoring Unit (MMU). Available figures for the annual costs of each contract are as follows:

	£
EDS	
2006/07	134,337
2007/08	156,033
2008/09	[1]35,743
MMU	
2007-08	37,245
2008-09	[1]3,995

[1] To date

DFID does not have any agencies nor NDPBs.

Haiti: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assistance the UK has provided to those affected by the hurricanes in Haiti. [225507]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) committed up to £7 million for humanitarian relief and early recovery to the Caribbean

after the recent hurricanes, some £6 million of which is for Haiti to help restore water, sanitation and other essential services and supplies. DFID also sent a humanitarian assessment team to Haiti and is supporting UN relief co-ordination there with two seconded experts.

In addition, the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) is committing €700,000 for humanitarian relief, 15.8 per cent. of which is charged to DFID's budget.

Although DFID has no long-term bilateral development programme or representation in Haiti, DFID will continue to support Haiti through engagement with and funding of multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, United Nations, European Union, regional CARICOM institutions, the Caribbean Development Bank and international NGOs. We judge these actors to be best placed to assist Haiti's development because of their long-term presence.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made by the United Nations relief fund to help those affected by the recent hurricanes in Haiti; and if he will make a statement. [225508]

Mr. Michael Foster: The United Nations (UN) issued an international appeal for post-hurricane humanitarian relief funding for Haiti totalling $107 million. So far we understand donors have committed $23,540,000, 22 per cent. of the appeal. The Department for International Development (DFID) is channelling £4 million of its £6 million humanitarian aid for Haiti through the UN.

In the very difficult circumstances prevailing in Haiti all agencies are finding it difficult to manage relief. There are challenges of staffing, co-ordination and logistics. We have targeted our support to be as helpful as possible to the UN agencies in overcoming these constraints.

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what factors are taken into account in his Department's risk management policy on distribution of aid. [220378]

Mr. Michael Foster: Much of the Department for International Development's (DFID) work is in high risk environments. Staff must be safeguarded, financial control maintained and our development activities must reduce poverty. DFID's systems are designed to provide a high and consistent level of management everywhere, including in difficult environments. DFID tackles three types of risks:

Risks to DFID staff and resources;

Risks to the delivery of international development

Risks faced by poor people throughout the world

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the outcome of the UN High-Level Event on the millennium development goals on 25 September, with particular reference to the financial contributions pledged by the British Government. [225581]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The high level event (HLE) on the MDGs involved the broadest ever alliance assembled to fight for poverty reduction. Participants in the event, and the nearly 60 partnership events during the week, represented over 140 countries and leaders of NGOs, business, faith groups, philanthropic organisations and cities.

At the UN HLE the UK Government committed to spend an estimated £450 million over the next three years to support national health plans for eight international health partnership countries. Prime Minister Gordon Brown also announced the foundation of a multistakeholder Taskforce on Innovative Financing for Health Systems to help meet the financial gap on the health MDGs. With the aim that this Taskforce will report to the Italian G8 summit in 2009.

On education the UK Government committed £50 million for the education fast-track initiative (FTI) as part of a multi stakeholder approach launching the new "Class of 2015" partnership which looks to address the funding gap in order to help make it possible to get 24 million children into school by 2010. It is part of delivering on our commitment, announced in April 2006, to provide £8.5 billion in support of education over 10 years. There was also an announcement of a £5 million commitment for a partnership with Comic Relief totalling £10 million (£5 million each) through which school children in the UK will raise money for schools in Africa. As with the FTI funding it's part of our delivering on our £8.5 billion commitment.

The UK announced £40 million to support the affordable medicines facility for malaria, which the UK encourages the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) to host. This is in support of the global malaria action plan that was developed by Roll Back Malaria, with contributions from 250 partner organisations, and launched with Malaria No More, Roll Back Malaria, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the UN on the 25 September. The action plan points the way towards universal coverage of bed nets and spraying by 2010, and achieving near zero malaria deaths by 2015.

On food security the UK Government committed £42 million to the Horn of Africa as part of the Government's emergency assistance. This was part of the $1.75 billion announced by stakeholders at the UN HLE in emergency food aid to stop starvation in the Horn of Africa, and for the rapid distribution of support, including seeds and fertilizers, to 30 priority countries.

I will be answering questions relating to the UN HLE at the Africa All Parliamentary Group (APPG) on 28 October and at the International Development Committee on the UN high level event on 30 October.

Somalia: Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Somalian refugees in Yemen; and what steps the UK has taken to facilitate their safety and security. [225602]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Figures from the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) show that as at January 2008, there were 79,000 Somali refugees in Yemen. This figure is projected to rise to 82,720 by the end of 2008.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is not currently providing assistance to UNHCR for the purpose of supporting Somali refugees in Yemen. However, through DFID's bilateral programme in Yemen, we will be providing £7 million between 2008 and 2013 to support efforts to increase access to justice and policing for all those living in Yemen.

DFID is also working in Somalia, to improve governance, security, health, education, livelihoods and provide emergency humanitarian relief. Our support is aimed at building more stable conditions so that fewer Somalis feel forced to seek a better life elsewhere.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the Sri Lankan government to ensure free passage of food, medicines and other humanitarian supplies to the North of Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [227016]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for International Development raised the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka in a bilateral meeting with President Rajapakse on 26 September in New York at the United Nations General Assembly. They stressed the need for a political solution to the Conflict as well as the need to secure humanitarian space and to provide humanitarian relief to an estimated 220,000 Internally Displaced Persons trapped in the conflict zone in the north of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the UK Government is taking to ameliorate the humanitarian situation in the north of Sri Lanka. [227022]

Mr. Michael Foster: In addition to diplomatic engagement, the UK Government are providing funding for humanitarian aid. The Department for International Development (DFID) contributed £1.25 million in 2007-08 through the UN and the International Red Cross. Following the latest DFID humanitarian assessment mission to Sri Lanka 15-24 September, which visited the north, DFID has agreed a further £2.5 million humanitarian aid. We are in urgent discussion with the UN and the Red Cross about how to channel this aid as quickly as possible to assist the 200,000-250,000 internally displaced people caught up in the latest upsurge in the conflict.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what the initial findings of his Department's assessment team on the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka are; and if he will make a statement; [227486]

(2) how many people were on his Department's assessment team on the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka; [227487]

(3) how many days his Department's assessment team spent observing the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka on its recent visit; [227488]

(4) what areas were visited by his Department's assessment team on the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka; [227489]

(5) whether his Department's assessment team reported being subject to significant travel restrictions during its visit to Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement; [227490]

(6) what further steps the Government plans to take in response to the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka. [227491]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) assessment of the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka is that it is severe and in need of urgent relief action. As I reported to the House on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 240-48WH, we estimate that the number of Sri Lankans displaced in the latest surge in the conflict between the Sri Lankan armed forces and separatist extremists has risen from approximately 75,000 in July to between 200,000 and 250,000. Because many of these people have suffered multiple previous displacements they are particularly vulnerable. They are trapped between opposing forces in a pocket of north-east Sri Lanka without the assistance they need, lacking food, water, shelter, healthcare or sanitation. It is impossible to gauge exact numbers or their full plight because there is no humanitarian access to them. There are plans by the United Nations and the Sri Lankan authorities to mount relief convoys but so far very little is getting through.

As I said in the House on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 240-48 WH, we deplore this situation, have called on all parties to the conflict to facilitate access and humanitarian aid and I am pleased to have committed a further £2.5 million for humanitarian relief through the international agencies.

The DFID assessment team comprised one UK-based humanitarian specialist who has previously worked in Sri Lanka and has visited Sri Lanka many times and a representative of the British high commission in Colombo.

The assessment team visited Sri Lanka from 16 to 24 September, including Vavunia and Jaffna District, where they were able to travel without difficulties or restrictions. They were unable to visit the Wanni area because security there could not be assured.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka. [227582]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) assessment of the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka is that it is severe and in need of urgent relief action. As I reported to the House on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 240-48WH, we estimate that the number of Sri Lankans displaced in the latest surge in the conflict between the Sri Lankan armed forces and separatist extremists has risen from approximately 75,000 in July to between 200,000 and 250,000. Because many of these people have suffered multiple previous displacements they are particularly vulnerable. They are trapped between opposing forces in a pocket of north-east Sri Lanka without the assistance they need, lacking food, water, shelter, health care or sanitation. It is impossible to gauge exact numbers or their full plight because there is as yet no proper humanitarian access to them. The United Nations and the Sri Lankan authorities are attempting relief convoys but so far relatively little is getting through.

As I said in the House on 14 October, we deplore this situation, have called on all parties to the conflict to facilitate access and humanitarian aid and I am pleased to have committed a further £2.5 million for humanitarian relief through the international agencies.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that humanitarian aid *(a)* workers and *(b)* supplies can reach the districts of Kilinochchi and Mulaitivu in northern Sri Lanka. [227583]

Mr. Michael Foster: In addition to diplomatic representations, the Department for International Development (DFID) supports the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which has a permanent international and national staff presence in Kilinochchi and Mullaittivu. As I said in the House on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 240-48WH, we are pressing for full humanitarian access to those areas.

We are also pressing for Sri Lankan and United Nations relief convoys to deliver aid in safety and will support UN and other aid agency partners to increase their aid operations as soon as possible, assisted by the further £2.5 million from DFID that I was pleased to announce on 14 October.

HEALTH

Babies: Medical Examinations

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place for ensuring that children have *(a)* a hip examination at birth and *(b)* another examination at between six and eight weeks old. [224759]

Ann Keen: Screening for developmental dysplasia of the hips (DDH) is part of the routine physical examinations that every baby has, first within 72 hours of birth and then at 6-8 weeks old, as part of the Child Health Promotion Programme (CHPP), which covers pregnancy and the first five years of life. The examinations are usually performed by doctors, but can also be carried out by midwives and specialist nurses.

All the screening programmes in the CHPP have met the criteria set out by the National Screening Committee. Screening programmes require local implementation of an agreed pathway, including clear guidelines on referral to assessment and differential diagnostic services.

Bowel Cancer

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government is taking to improve bowel cancer awareness and early diagnosis among men. [225706]

Ann Keen: Raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer is a key element of the "Cancer Reform Strategy" (copies of which have already been placed in the Library). Through the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, we will be taking forward work to improve awareness of the signs and symptoms of all cancers, including bowel cancer, among men and women. As part of this work, we will be working to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness and encourage early presentation. We are currently investing in the Improvement Foundation's pilot work to develop and test methods of raising awareness of bowel, breast and lung cancers in 20 of the most deprived areas in the country.

Through section 64, we are currently funding a Men's Health Forum project which aims to increase bowel cancer screening awareness and uptake by men.

The Department has worked with health professionals, patient groups and the voluntary sector to develop standardised messages for bowel cancer. Work to update the messages will be commencing shortly.

In addition, from 2010, the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme will be extended to men and women aged 70 to 75. We are currently piloting the extension in five pilot sites, and an evaluation of this will inform the national roll-out of the extension.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the first annual report on progress towards objectives contained in the Cancer Reform Strategy. [224576]

Ann Keen: The National Cancer Director's first annual report on the Cancer Reform Strategy will be published by the end of the year.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms he has implemented for monitoring progress towards NHS waiting time standards outlined in the Cancer Reform Strategy. [224577]

Ann Keen: Performance against the current national health service cancer waiting times standards is monitored by NHS trust and is published on a quarterly basis by the Department of Health at:

http://www.performance.doh.gov.uk/cancerwaits/index.htm

We will continue to publish performance data by NHS trust on a quarterly basis as the extended waiting time standards set out the Cancer Reform Strategy are introduced from the end of December 2008. Local progress is monitored by commissioners of the service.

Cardiovascular System: Health Services

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts have developed their own vascular assessment or screening programmes; [225176]

(2) how many free vascular risk assessments have been provided under the Government's Putting Prevention First programme in each primary care trust. [225185]

Ann Keen: From 2009-10, the national health service is being asked to implement a vascular risk assessment and management programme or 'vascular checks' for people in England aged between 40 and 74, the proposals for which were set out in "Putting Prevention First" published on 1 April 2008, copies have already been placed in the Library. This programme will help ensure greater focus on the prevention of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and kidney disease and will help people remain well for longer.

There is already a considerable amount of prevention and risk management activity taking place in primary care trusts in relation to individual conditions such as coronary heart disease and diabetes. There are no central records of exact numbers. The aim of the vascular checks initiative is to build on this valuable work so that the advantages of risk assessment and management are available to all who are able to benefit. The Department is currently working with stakeholders including commissioners, general practice and the pharmacy sector, on how best to do this.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards developing *(a)* an information pack to be issued regarding screening programmes and *(b)* a public relations strategy to boost participation of women aged 25 to 35 years in cervical cancer screening; and when he expects these policies to be implemented. [224882]

Ann Keen: As set out in the Cancer Reform Strategy, the National Health Service Cancer Screening Programme is commissioning an Improvement Foundation project to look at addressing the falling participation of younger women in the NHS cervical screening programme. The evidence and outcomes from the Improvement Foundation's local work will inform the development of the NHS Cancer Screening Programme's information materials and public relations strategy in this matter. The Improvement Foundation are expected to deliver the outcomes from their work to the NHS Cancer Screening Programme by the end of 2009.

The NHS Cancer Screening Programmes have already produced posters specifically targeting women in the age range of 25-35.

Chemotherapy Advisory Group

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group to report; [224883]

(2) what steps he is taking to implement the recommendations of the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group. [224884]

Ann Keen: It is anticipated that the first draft of the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group report will be issued to key stakeholders for informal consultation by the end of the year. The National Cancer Director will then make recommendations to the NHS following consideration of comments received. The National Cancer action team will provide support for cancer networks and primary care trusts to implement recommendations.

Cot Deaths: Research

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent in the last year for which figures are available on *(a)* research into Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, *(b)* mental health research, *(c)* neurological research, *(d)* ophthalmic research, *(e)* audiology research and *(f)* HIV/AIDS research. [224598]

Dawn Primarolo: The information available is shown in the following table.

Estimated research and development (R and D) expenditure in 2007-08

£ million

	Departmental and National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) programmes	*National health service R and D transitional support funding*
Sudden infant death syndrome	0.2	n/a
Mental health	[1]18.2	47.4
Neurology	[1]16.4	39.1
Ophthalmology	2.5	n/a
Audiology	0.4	n/a
HIV/AIDS	2.2	n/a

n/a = Not available

[1] Includes NIHR clinical research network expenditure. Details of individual projects supported by the UK Clinical Research Network are available at: http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. These organisations account for their use of the allocations they receive from the Department in annual research and development reports. The reports identify total, aggregated expenditure on certain priority areas including mental health, chronic neurological conditions and degenerative neurological disorders. They do not provide details of spend on the other conditions listed in the table.

The Medical Research Council (MRC), like the NIHR, is one of the main agencies through which the Government support biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Relevant MRC expenditure is not included in the figures above.

Death: Football

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research into the causes of death of active amateur and professional footballers over the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [226244]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The Department is not planning to commission the research suggested. However, the Department has supported a recent initiative led by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the national football organisations and Cardiac Risk in the Young to promote awareness of familial heart conditions and the risks they pose to footballers.

Discussions are also currently taking place between the two Departments and the other UK health departments on whether further research into the effectiveness of testing young athletes for these conditions ought to be carried out.

Dementia: Drugs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish proposals to reduce the level of inappropriate prescribing of anti-psychotic medication to people with dementia, as heralded in his Department's draft dementia strategy. [225509]

Phil Hope: The Department originally anticipated that the results of the review into the use of anti-psychotic

drugs for people with dementia would be available before the National Dementia Strategy is published. Given the work involved on developing the strategy, this will not now be possible. The strategy is now likely to be published in mid-November, and we anticipate that the results of the anti-psychotics review will be published early in 2009.

Dementia: Research

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in plans for the dementia research summit that was announced in June; for what reasons the summit was not held in accord with the originally planned timetable; and if he will make a statement. [226317]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The dementia research summit has been delayed because of the pressure of work on developing the National Dementia Strategy and Implementation Plan. We now anticipate that the summit will take place in December 2008.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the contribution to dental outcomes in England made by *(a)* dental technicians and *(b)* clinical dental technicians. [224678]

Ann Keen: Dental technicians continue to make an essential contribution to high quality dental treatment through the manufacture of dental appliances to the standards set in the Medical Devices Directive. Increasing numbers of clinical dental technicians are building upon this contribution by both manufacturing and fitting dental appliances to edentulous patients having met the registration requirements set by the General Dental Council.

Dental Services: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients used NHS dental services in Bassetlaw in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; [224610]

(2) how many registered NHS dental patients there are in Bassetlaw constituency; and how many there were in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* January 2008. [224923]

Ann Keen: Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a national health service dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in England, over the previous 24-month period, is available in table C1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007, and 31 December 2007. Information is provided by strategic health authority and primary care trust (PCT). Information by constituency is not available under the new contractual arrangements.

This report, published on 5 June 2008 by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care, has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

The Dental Services Division (DSD) of the NHS Business Services Authority has recently issued 'patients seen' information at PCT level. However, this was for management information purposes. PCTs have recently raised some issues which suggest that the way in which patients are allocated to PCTs across the various quarters needs to be reviewed. This means that sub-national information on patients seen was not included in the "Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. This report, published on 21 August 2008 by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care, has already been placed in the Library. The DSD has confirmed that this issue could only have a minimal impact on the national figures. They were therefore labelled as provisional pending the review. An update will be provided in the "Dental Statistics for England: 2008/09 Q1" report in November 2008.

Increasing the number of patients seen within the NHS dental service is now a priority in the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2008-09. We have supported this with an 11 per cent. uplift in overall dental allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008. Copies of the Operating Framework have already been placed in the Library.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS budget for dentistry in Bassetlaw constituency was in each of the last 20 years. [224924]

Ann Keen: This information is not available in the format requested.

Prior to April 2006, most primary dental services were provided under former General Dental Service arrangements. These were demand-led services, funded from a single national budget, where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice and how much national health service work they chose to undertake. Expenditure was accounted for by the former Dental Practice Board on a national basis only.

However, certain information on primary dental care expenditure in individual primary care trusts (PCTs), health authorities or constituency areas is available for earlier years. The Information Centre for health and social care published the following report on 26 March 2008:

"NHS Expenditure for General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services: England 1997/98-2005/06". This report has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalexpend1997to2006

The report includes information on primary dental care expenditure by constituency for 1997-98 to 2005-06 in tables A3 and B3 of annex 3. Table A3 relates to 'gross' expenditure and table B3 relates to 'net' expenditure. 'Gross' expenditure refers to the full cost of the payments recorded; 'net' expenditure reflects the cost of these

payments to the NHS after the deduction of income from NHS dental charges paid by patients. Information by PCT and strategic health authority (SHA) is also available in tables A1 and B1.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006 and is not directly comparable with subsequent expenditure data reflecting the new framework and scope of local commissioning arrangements for primary dental care services introduced from April 2006. Further notes to aid interpretation of the information are shown in the 'Contents and Notes' page of annex 3.

PCTs assumed responsibility for the local commissioning of primary dental care on 1 April 2006. Under the new service framework, the Department awards each PCT an annual primary dental service allocation to maintain and develop dental care services. Allocations are net of any income from NHS dental charges paid by patients, which PCTs retain as additional funding for dentistry. PCTs may direct further local NHS resources to dentistry if they consider it appropriate in the light of local needs and priorities. PCTs therefore determine their own local operational budgets taking into account the total resource they intend to commit to dentistry including any expected income from NHS dental charges. The Department's primary dental service allocations to Bassetlaw PCT since April 2006 is shown in the following table.

Primary dental care service allocations to Bassetlaw PCT (net of patient-charge revenue)

Financial year	*Net allocation (£000)*
2006-07	2,644
2007-08	2,839
2008-09	3,142

Note:
Any PCT which hosts an approved training post for a dental vocational trainee will receive a supplementary net funding allocation from its SHA to cover the relevant costs.

Data on actual expenditure on primary dental services can be derived from PCT accounts. Expenditure totals for Bassetlaw PCT are set out in the following table. However, accounts data do not separately identify expenditure by constituency area or any other sub-division of a PCT area.

Expenditure on primary dental care services in Bassetlaw PCT, 2006-07 to 2007-08

£000

	Financial year	
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Gross expenditure	4,059	4,403
Dental charges paid by patients	1,079	1,180
Net expenditure	2,980	3,223

Note:
PCTs also commission secondary dental services such as specialist hospital dental departments, which they fund from their general NHS budgets, but expenditure on these services is not separately identified in PCT accounts.
Source:
2006-07 data from audited summarisation schedules of Bassetlaw PCT. 2007-08 data from audited financial monitoring and accounts forms for Bassetlaw PCT.

Dentistry: Technicians

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to support training and professional development for clinical dental technicians. [224679]

Ann Keen: The General Dental Council is responsible for approving training courses, which lead to the registration of dental care professionals. We believe that a training course for clinical dental technicians needs to be established in England. We were therefore very encouraged to learn that the Postgraduate Dental Dean for south east coast is collaborating the university of Kent to devise a course which should give credit for relevant experience and competencies which some dental technicians have already acquired. We understand the programme will be submitted to the General Dental Council's Education Committee in December and, if it is approved, places will be advertised in the new year.

Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts have developed their own diabetes strategy. [225177]

Ann Keen: This information is not centrally collected. Responsibility for implementing the diabetes national service framework rests with the national health service, and it is for primary care trusts to commission services that meet the needs of their local population.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* financial and *(b)* administrative support the Government has given to campaigns to raise awareness of the risk factors for diabetes. [225178]

Ann Keen: The national health service (NHS) next stage review, 'High Quality Care for All', published on 30 June 2008, announced the introduction of the Reduce Your Risk campaign, which will raise awareness of the vascular checks programme and vascular conditions generally, including diabetes. Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library.

In addition to this, The Change4Life campaign is a forthcoming £75 million social marketing programme that is part of "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross Government Strategy for England" (copies of which have already been placed in the Library). The campaign will support and encourage people to live healthily by helping them to make significant and sustained choices to behaviours around diet and physical activity. This will also help prevent obesity and reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes and other cardiovascular diseases.

Through the Section 64 general grant scheme (now known as Third Sector Investment programme), we have given a total of £305,976 in support of three projects that include raising awareness of type 2 diabetes since 2005.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department plans to address the need for improvements in emotional and psychological support for diabetes patients identified in the National Service Framework's Five Years On report. [225180]

Ann Keen: The Department, in collaboration with Diabetes UK, has established a joint working group to identify what needs to be done to enable the national health service and local care services to meet the

psychological and emotional needs of all people with diabetes to support them to self-care. This will include examining the competencies required to deliver an appropriate service. The group is part of a wider workstream looking at ways that local services can develop support for people with diabetes to self-manage, including care planning, structured education and self-monitoring.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimated percentage of hospital beds were occupied by patients with diabetes in each primary care trust at the latest date for which information is available; [225181]

(2) how many people have been admitted to hospital in diabetes-related emergencies in the last 12 months. [225182]

Ann Keen: Information on the estimated percentage of hospital beds occupied by patients with diabetes in each primary care trust is not available in the format requested. The recent report 'Improving Emergency and Inpatient Care for People with Diabetes' estimates that around 10 per cent. of all hospital beds in the United Kingdom are occupied by people with diabetes.

The following table shows the number of people admitted to hospital in diabetes-related emergencies in 2006-07, the latest year for which figures are available:

Total emergency admissions to hospital in England in which a patient had a primary diagnosis of diabetes related condition in 2006-07

	Total emergency admissions
2006-07	[1]43,822

[1] Finished admissions episodes (FAE): a FAE is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many diabetes patients *(a)* are receiving, *(b)* have received and *(c)* have not received structured education for diabetes through DESMOND programmes in each primary care trust; [225186]

(2) how many diabetes patients *(a)* are receiving, *(b)* have received and *(c)* have not received structured education for diabetes through DAFNE programmes in each primary care trust. [225187]

Ann Keen: This information is not available in the format requested. The DAFNE centre reports, to date, that 8,698 people in England have become DAFNE graduates. The following table breaks this down by centre.

Number of DAFNE graduated per centre

Centre	*Number of patients graduated*
Addenbrooke's	656
Arrowe Park	84
Barking and Dagenham	24
Basildon	5
Bedford	128
Birmingham East and North	41
Blackburn	126
Bolton	46
Bridlington	99
Burnley	53
Central Middlesex	261
Chelsea and Westminster	61
Croydon	24
Dartford	61
Derby	311
Durham	63
Exeter	105
Harrogate	48
Heart of Birmingham	125
Hinchingbrooke	60
Hull	260
Ipswich	60
Kings	703
Leicester	625
Lewisham	52
Maidstone	37
Medway	98
North Lincolnshire and Goole	164
Northampton	474
Northumbria	614
Norwich	114
Nottingham	452
Pembury	64
Pennine	96
Queen Elizabeth, London	33
Queen Mary, Kent	44
Redbridge	12
Rotherham	46
Royal Surrey County Hospital	6
Salford	116
Salisbury	80
Scarborough	190
South East Kent	54
Selly Oak	88
Sheffield	713
South of Tees	112
Southend	60
St. George's, Hornchurch	73
St. George's, Tooting	146
St. Thomas	157
Tameside	46
Taunton and Somerset	86
UCLH	94
Wakefield	16
West Cumberland	106
West Essex	112
Wythenshawe	109
Bournemouth	5

The DESMOND central office reports that the programme has been delivered to over 20,000 people in the United Kingdom and Ireland. A figure for England is not available.

Health Professions: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many nurses there are in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England; [225326]

(2) how many doctors there are in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England; [225327]

(3) how many NHS nurses were employed in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997; [225898]

(4) how many NHS doctors were employed in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [225901]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

All GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) for selected organisations in England, as at 1997-2007

numbers (headcount)

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	England total	28,046	28,251	28,467	28,593	28,802	29,202	30,358	31,523	32,738	33,091	33,364
	Total specified organisations	503	513	508	512	518	545	573	595	607	611	622
QCH	North Derbyshire Health Authority (HA)	191	195	199	193	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
QCJ	South Derbyshire HA	312	318	309	319	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5N7	Derby City PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	142	143	149	154	155	159	161
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	376	402	424	441	452	452	461

All practice nurses for selected organisations in England, as at 1997-2007

numbers (headcount)

		1997[2]	1998[2]	1999[2]	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	England total	n/a	n/a	n/a	19,200	19,846	20,983	21,667	22,144	22,904	23,797	22,860
	Total specified organisations	n/a	n/a	n/a	351	351	385	377	433	422	456	486
QCH	North Derbyshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	128	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
QCJ	South Derbyshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	223	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5N7	Derby City PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	112	122	123	132	129	132	135
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	239	263	254	301	293	324	351

n/a.= Not applicable.

[1] In 2006 Amber Valley PCT, Chesterfield PCT, Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT, Erewash PCT, High Peak and Dales PCT and North Eastern Derbyshire PCT merged to form Derbyshire County PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these six predecessor organisations.

[2] Practice nurse headcount figures are not available on the annual census prior to 2000.

Notes:

1. Data for Chesterfield are not available. Data are available for Trusts and PCTs that provide or provided services within the Chesterfield constituency.
2. Data is not available for the specific geographical area of Derbyshire. The data used here is for both PCTs within Derbyshire for comparability as they were formed from the two former health authorities in Derbyshire.
3. Data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-07

Data Quality:

Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Hospital and community health services (HCHS): medical and dental staff[1] within specified organisations in England, 1997-2007

numbers (headcount)

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	England	60,230	62,140	63,994	66,067	68,464	72,168	76,400	82,951	37,043	90,243	91,790
RFS	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	191	202	209	205	229	233	247	260	265	281	306
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	50	51	53	53	55	44

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in England by specified organisation, 1997-2007

numbers (headcount)

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	England	300,467	304,563	310,142	316,752	330,535	346,537	364,692	375,371	361,257	374,538	376,737

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in England by specified organisation, 1997-2007

numbers (headcount)

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
RFS	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	789	818	823	757	887	907	898	938	1,032	964	975
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	763	1,276	1,282	1,331	1,394	1,271	1,280

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Figure excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.

[2] In 2006 Amber Valley PCT, Chesterfield PCT, Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT, Erewash PCT, High Peak and Dales PCT and North-Eastern Derbyshire PCT merged to form Derbyshire County PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these six predecessor organisations.

Notes:

1. Data for Chesterfield are not available. Data are available for Trusts and PCTs that provide or provided services within the Chesterfield constituency.
2. Data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-07.

Data Quality:

Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

1. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
2. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Health Services: Interpreters

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the risks of medical accidents or misapprehension of clinical information identified by the seventh report of the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health, Saving Mothers' Lives, of using friends and family as interpreters in medical and social care contexts, what steps he has taken to ensure that health and social care professionals have the assistance of interpreters qualified at the level of the National Occupational Interpreting Standards. [224792]

Ann Keen: We have advocated in the maternity standard of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services that all national health service maternity care providers and primary care trusts make provision for translation, interpretation and advocacy services based on an assessment of the needs of their local population. Copies of the framework have already been placed in the Library.

National health service and social care bodies are not required to report their arrangements for interpretation and translation services to the Department. When planning such services, they should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

Heath and social care bodies usually commission such services from private organisations that provide access to qualified and trained interpreters. NHS bodies can also access telephone interpretation through NHS Direct, which operates from 21 call centres in England and have access to interpretation for over 100 available 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Health Services: Ministers of Religion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which departmental authority is responsible for the central funding allocation for hospital and healthcare chaplaincy; what proposals are in place for its use in 2009-10; and when these will be discussed with the nine world faith communities; [224704]

(2) what funding allocations have been made from the central allocation for hospital and healthcare chaplaincy for 2008-09; and what *(a)* bids and *(b)* requirements were made by the relevant representations of the nine world faith communities at which the allocation is directed. [225017]

Ann Keen: Funding for the provision of health care chaplaincy services is built into the financial allocations to primary care trusts, who commission services on behalf of patients.

The Department also holds a central fund of £185,000 to provide grants for the provision of support to chaplains across the nine leading world faith communities. Following an independent review of central funding of hospital chaplaincy in 2005, it was agreed that the nine leading faith groups in England would receive a share of the NHS hospital chaplaincy grant. For 2008-09, the United Synagogue Visitation Committee, The Muslim Council of Britain and the Free Churches Group at Churches Together in England each received £35,000, with the remaining funds distributed among the other six faith groups that bid. This financial year the Department's Equality and Human Rights Group managed the allocation, and more support was given to minority faith groups from the remaining budget to ensure a more equitable distribution of funds to help them provide for the religious and spiritual needs of patients while in hospital.

Chaplaincy grants for the next financial year have yet to be determined. We will be holding a stakeholder event in January 2009 with the main leading faith groups in England to consult on central funding allocations for 2009-10.

Health Services: Pay

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for making changes to payment by results taking account of findings from the review of payment by results and cancer. [224578]

Ann Keen: We are seeking to make progress on the recommendations in the report entitled "Ensuring PbR supports the delivery of effective cancer services" as soon as practicable. Copies of this report have been placed in the Library. Some recommendations have already been implemented, such as the establishment of an Expert Reference Panel for cancer. Other issues require further work and discussion before changes can be implemented, such as coding for chemotherapy and radiotherapy, currently being considered by National Cancer Action Team working groups. This work programme is in line with the commitment to further develop payment by results for cancer services made in the "Cancer Reform Strategy" (copies of which have already been placed in the Library).

Healthcare for London

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings officials or Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of Healthcare for London over the past 12 months; and what the date of each meeting was. [224304]

Mr. Bradshaw: Healthcare for London is a programme funded by and run on behalf of London's primary care trusts, to deliver improvements to the capital's healthcare over the next 10 years. Representatives of the Healthcare for London team have met with Ministers or officials to keep them informed of implementation of the programme on the following occasions between September 2007 and August 2008.

Lord Darzi, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, had meetings with representatives of Healthcare for London on the following dates: 20 November 2007, 23 and 28 April 2008 and 11 June 2008.

Department officials have had meetings with Healthcare for London representatives on the following dates: 7 and 13 February 2008, 4, 9, 14, 16 and 23 April 2008, 3, 9, 11, 17 and 24 June 2008, 7, 9, 17, 22, 23 and 25 July 2008, and 5, 6, 7, 11 and 27 August 2008.

Liver Diseases: Health Services

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department's Liver Disease Service Review will reach its conclusions; and when he plans to make a decision on the future of liver disease services. [225269]

Ann Keen: We recognise that there is strong support for developing a national plan for liver disease. We are considering what the national health service needs to do over the next few years in order to address these pressures, and how this should be monitored.

We shall announce next steps in due course.

Lung Diseases

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people required treatment for mesothelioma in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [224748]

Ann Keen: Whilst we do not collect figures on the number of people requiring treatment for mesothelioma, we do collect information relating to the number of finished episodes where the primary diagnosis was mesothelioma. This information is provided in the following table, but it should be noted that the figures relate only to admitted patients and do not include any patients who are treated for mesothelioma in accident and emergency but not admitted, patients treated in an outpatient setting, or patients treated in the community.

It should also be noted that Northumberland, Tyne and Wear strategic health authority and County Durham and Tees strategic health authority combined to form the North East strategic health authority in 2006-07.

Count of finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis was mesothelioma, for selected organisations, NHS Hospitals in England, and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the English NHS (1997-98 to 2006-07)

	Finished consultant episodes			*England*
	South Tyneside PCT (5KG) as PCT of residence	*North East strategic health authority*		
2006-07	69	735		6,677
		Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA (Q99) as SHA of residence	*County Durham and Tees Valley SHA (Q10) as SHA of residence*	
2005-06	40	316	303	6,436
2004-05	28	348	282	5,671
2003-04	56	443	230	5,697
2002-03	53	267	173	4,685
2001-02	59	321	129	4,163
2000-01	57	315	122	4,442
1999-2000	58	401	121	4,155
1998-99	39	373	98	3,773
1997-98	11	186	69	3,975

[1] The ICD-10 codes used in this analysis were as follows:
C 45 Mesothelioma
D19 Benign neoplasm of mesothelial tissue

Notes

Finished consultant episode (FCE)
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity overtime.

Primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) data quality
PCT and SHA data was added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of Treatment and SHA of Treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of GP practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Source
Hospital episode statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Malnutrition

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who left NHS hospitals experiencing malnutrition in each of the last three years. [224744]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mental Health

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the letter of 18 March 2008 from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Home Office with responsibility for crime reduction to the hon. Member for Altrincham and Sale, West, what changes have been made to his Department's Frank website with regard to the Under-Secretary's request for a review of its advice on the link between cannabis and mental health. [226828]

Dawn Primarolo: My hon. Friend, the Member for Gedling, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Home Office (Mr. Coaker), in his letter of 18 March 2008 to the hon. Member for Altrincham and Sale, West (Mr. Brady) pledged that new or additional advice on the links between cannabis and the onset of mental health problems presented by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) report "Cannabis: Classification and Public Health (2008)" would be fully and accurately reflected in the information and advice provided through Frank and elsewhere from Government. The ACMD report was published in April 2008.

The Government responded to the ACMD report on 13 October 2008 stating that the Frank campaign, which has been extremely effective in highlighting to young people the harms associated with cannabis, will be updating the information it provides following the ACMD's report. An enhanced campaign of activity reflecting these new messages will be undertaken in the near future.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department incurred in maintaining and operating the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [225969]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1749W.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are used to appoint staff to posts in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; what criteria are applied; and who is responsible for making decisions on staff selection. [225970]

Dawn Primarolo: These are matters for the independent National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NICE should be contacted direct for this information.

NHS: Drugs

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what circumstances an exceptional uses medical panel may reverse a clinician's recommendation for treatment with a drug approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [225377]

Dawn Primarolo: Unless it has been amended or waived for a specific treatment, a statutory funding direction requires national health service organisations to make funding available for treatments recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) within three months of publication of final guidance. The Government would not expect a primary care trust to refuse funding for a treatment prescribed by the patient's clinician that has been recommended by NICE and is covered by the funding direction.

Patients: Death

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS patients who died in NHS hospitals as a result of *(a)* dehydration and *(b)* starvation in each of the last three years. [224745]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Spinal Injuries: Health Services

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of spinal cord injury patients who are being managed by people without specialist skills relating to the condition; [224710]

(2) what assessment he has made of whether the number of beds and other resources available in spinal cord injury centres are sufficient to meet the specialist needs of all spinal cord injury patients promptly and appropriately; and how many beds there were in the designated specialist spinal cord injury centres in the latest period for which figures are available; [224899]

(3) what mechanisms are in place for the collection of national data on spinal cord injury patients, their management and the outcomes of their care; and what steps he is taking to improve such mechanisms. [225053]

Ann Keen: No estimate has been made of the number of spinal injury cord patients who are being managed by health professionals without specialist skills relating to this condition.

No assessment has been made on whether the number of beds and other resources in spinal injury centres is sufficient to meet the needs of those with spinal injuries. It is the responsibility of the individual centres, and regional commissioners, to ensure that they are able to meet the anticipated needs of the regional population they serve. Information on the number of beds provided at such centres is not collected centrally.

There are no existing mechanisms, or plans, to collect national data specifically on spinal cord injury patients.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms are in place to monitor the outcomes of spinal cord injury care to ensure the minimum quality standards are being achieved; [224711]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to monitor those foundation trusts that host the specialist spinal cord injury centres to ensure that those centres provide an appropriate level of service to patients with spinal cord injury. [224712]

Ann Keen: Spinal cord injury services are a specialised service, as defined within the National Specialised Services Definition Set. It is for specialised commissioning groups on behalf of their constituent primary care trusts to assess local needs and to contract directly with each NHS trust or NHS foundation trust for these services. Contracts should cover appropriate standards of care and include mechanisms for monitoring standards and ensuring patients that are treated appropriately.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms are in place for *(a)* the funding of specialist spinal cord injury centres, *(b)* decisions on how much is to be allocated to the trusts that host each specialist spinal cord injury centre and *(c)* the system by which each host trust is monitored in the provision of spinal injury care; [224714]

(2) whether multidisciplinary teams of medical and paramedical specialists trained in the appropriate care of spinal cord injury are present within the NHS other than in the specialist spinal cord injury centres established by his Department; where specialist centres are located; and whether his Department has issued guidance on the commissioning of spinal cord injury services outside these specialist spinal cord injury centres; [224715]

(3) what procedures are in place to ensure early referral of all spinal cord injury persons to the relevant expert Spinal Cord Injury Centre service; and what recent assessment he has made of possible improvements to those procedures. [225055]

Ann Keen: Spinal cord injury services are a specialised service, as defined within the National Specialised Services Definition Set. It is for specialised commissioning groups (SCGs) on behalf of their constituent primary care trusts to assess local needs and to contract directly with each national health service trust or foundation trust for these services. Contracts should cover appropriate standards of care and mechanisms for ensuring patients are treated appropriately. SCGs are currently working together on a development project to produce an agreed national tariff for spinal cord injury services.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) have the responsibility for ensuring they have appropriate teams of medical and paramedical staff able to deliver the services required to meet the needs of their local population. This may include staff trained in the care of those with spinal cord injuries where PCTs provide these services. Information on the provision of such local services is not collected nationally.

The National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions provides detailed guidance on the provision, and commissioning, of health and social care for those with long-term neurological conditions, including spinal injuries. Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library.

It is the responsibility of health professionals to make an individual assessment of each patient with spinal cord injuries to determine their health and social care needs, and if required, the most appropriate time for referral to a specialist spinal injury centre.

We have made no recent assessment of possible improvements to this procedure.

Stem Cells

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the letter of January 2008 from the Association of Medical Research Charities and others to Lord Darzi, on the creation of pluripotent embryonic cell lines, what *(a)* cell types have been generated and *(b)* disorders ameliorated in animal models using stem cells from the umbilical cord matrix; and if he will make a statement. [225945]

Dawn Primarolo: Cells of the connective tissue, blood, muscle and neurons have been generated from umbilical cord stem cells. Clinical and animal studies of umbilical cord stem cells, especially for diseases like leukaemia, show potential.

The United Kingdom Government are and always have been supportive of the use of stem cells from all sources, including embryos, foetuses, adult tissue and umbilical cord.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 16 October 2008

TREASURY

11 Downing Street: Art Works

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what items from the Government Art Collection are located within his Ministerial residence in Downing Street. [222989]

Angela Eagle: I am arranging for a list of works of art to be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Bank Notes: Visually Impaired

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 800W, on bank notes: visually impaired, if he will introduce paper currency with marks identifiable by touch to assist visually impaired individuals. [227609]

Ian Pearson: The Bank of England is responsible for the design of its banknotes. It consults regularly with the Royal National Institute of Blind People regarding the design of its banknotes and is currently satisfied that the use of different dimensions for the four different denominations is the most effective way of assisting visually impaired individuals. The Bank of England has no plans to introduce new marks identifiable by touch.

Bank Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will remove the negative control which has been placed on the assets of Landsbanki in the UK. [227454]

Ian Pearson: The Government have frozen the funds of Landsbanki to prevent actions being taken which would be to the detriment of the UK economy. We are working constructively with the Icelandic Government to ensure that UK depositors and creditors of Icelandic banks are not unfairly disadvantaged. The Treasury will keep the freezing order under review.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to take steps to protect commercial depositors in the event of a bank collapsing. [227627]

Ian Pearson: The Government has announced a number of measures to maintain financial stability, to protect savers and to rebuild confidence in the financial system. This action is designed to help businesses, individuals and the wider economy.

Bank Services: Charities

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether bodies that are *(a)* registered charities only, *(b)* both registered charities and also companies limited by guarantee and *(c)* unincorporated associations are included within the Government's commitment to protect bank deposit holders up to the sum of £50,000. [227368]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for making the rules of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), including the rule change which increased the compensation limit for bank deposits to £50,000, and the rules which determine whether a body is eligible to claim compensation under the scheme. The increased compensation limit applies in relation to claims by all eligible claimants. The rules on eligibility for FSCS compensation are set out in the FSA handbook which is available on the FSA website. Guidance on eligibility for FSCS compensation is available on the FSCS website.

Bank Services: Local Authorities

Mr. Cawsey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether deposits by *(a)* North Lincolnshire Council and *(b)* other local authorities in failed overseas banks will be fully protected by the Government. [226827]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement given by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears) on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS.

Borders: Fraud

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many forged documents were confiscated at the UK's borders by HM Revenue and Customs in 2007-08. [227216]

Mr. Timms: HMRC officers working within the UK Border Agency act to detect the importation of prohibited and restricted goods at the UK border. In the course of that activity, large numbers of forged documents are seized. These documents are referred to other agencies to investigate. The number of documents seized are not systematically retained.

Financial Services Authority: Pay

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff employed by the Financial Services Authority were paid over £100,000 including bonuses in the last year for which figures are available; [227665]

(2) what the pay scales *(a)* before and *(b)* after bonuses are of staff employed by the Financial Services Authority earning above £100,000; [227666]

(3) what the total remuneration package is of each of the directors of the Financial Services Authority; [227667]

(4) how many employees of the Financial Services Authority were paid bonuses in the last 12 months; [227668]

(5) how many *(a)* people and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have been employed by the Financial Services Authority in each year since it was established. [227669]

Ian Pearson: These matters are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence.

Money Supply

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will undertake an investigation of the effects of arrangements for control of the money supply which include creation of it by private financial institutions in the form of credit; and if he will make a statement. [226556]

Ian Pearson: Monetary policy in the United Kingdom is set by the independent Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England.

The Capital Requirements Directive implements the international Basel II agreement into EU legislation which stipulates how much of their own financial resources banks and investment firms must have in order to cover their risks. The Financial Services Authority is responsible for implementing the directive in the UK.

Select Committees: Government Responses

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to respond to the Report from the Treasury Select Committee on Banking Reform, HC 1008. [226871]

Ian Pearson: The Government expect to respond to the Treasury Committee's report very shortly.

Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints from customers over tax credits his Department has received in each *(a)* year and *(b)* month since tax credits were introduced, broken down by type of complaint; and if he will make a statement. [225738]

Mr. Timms: For information up to and including February 2008, I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 634W.

Information for the period March 2008 to September 2008 is provided in the following table.

2008	*Number of complainants (approximate)*
March	2,950
April	3,500
May	2,700
June	3,650
July	4,450
August	3,300
September	3,850

Detailed information on the types of complaints, some of which often cover a range of subjects, is not available.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what grants have been given since 2003 from the Urban Bus Challenge Fund. [227111]

Paul Clark: Urban Bus Challenge competitions were held in 2001, 2002 and 2003 and a total of £53 million was awarded in those competitions. No new awards have been made under this scheme since 2003. Annual expenditure since 2003 on projects successful in the competitions has been as follows.

	£ million
2003-04	11.1
2004-05	4.3
2005-06	7.1
2006-07	4.8
2007-08	1.9

Buses: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many attacks there were on bus drivers in each of the last five years. [225624]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold data on the numbers of attacks against bus drivers. However, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are able to provide the following information:

Attacks against bus and coach drivers

	Number of attacks
2002-03	483
2003-04	398
2004-05	403
2005-06	405
2006-07	380
Total	2,069

Source:
Data collected by HSE and local authorities under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995

For this period, no fatal injuries to bus drivers involving acts of violence were reported to HSE or local authorities (under RIDDOR).

It is important to note that incidents involving bus drivers will only be reported to HSE or local authorities if they come into the RIDDOR criteria of 'fatal' or 'major', or if the attack resulted in a period of sick absence of more than three days. There will of course be other instances of less serious violence or verbal attacks which are not recorded centrally. And in many cases, the bus driver concerned may choose to not report the incident to his or her employer.

Driving Tests: Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list those purchases of land or buildings made by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies as a result of the rationalisation of driving test centres; and when these transactions were conducted. [224661]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency has purchased the following land as a result of the multi-purpose test centre (MPTC) project.

Location of land	*Transaction conducted*
Burgess Hill MPTC, West Sussex	January 2008
Enfield MPTC, Middlesex	October 2006
Ipswich MPTC, Suffolk	January 2006
Colwick MPTC, Nottinghamshire	October 2006

Emergency Services: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 473, on emergency services: accidents, how many of those accidents which occurred involving blue light vehicles from the *(a)* police force, *(b)* fire service and *(c)* ambulance service in each of the last five years that resulted in (i) deaths and (ii) serious injuries were on pedestrian crossings. [226564]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving vehicles from *(a)* the police force, *(b)* the fire service and *(c)* the ambulance service resulting in (i) deaths and (ii) serious injuries on pedestrian crossings in each Government office region in 2002 to 2007 are given in the tables.

(a) Police

Number of fatal accidents

Government office	*2006*	*2007*
North West	0	1
West Midlands	1	0
London	0	1
Total	1	2

(a) Police

Number of serious accidents

Government office	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	1	0	0	0	0
North West	0	0	0	1	1
East Midlands	0	0	1	0	0
West Midlands	0	1	0	1	0
South East	0	0	0	1	1
London	0	0	1	1	4
Total	1	1	2	4	6

(b) Ambulance

Number of fatal accidents

Government office	*2005*
Wales	1
Total	1

(b) Ambulance

Number of serious accidents

Government office	*2002*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	1	1	1	0
London	1	2	0	0	1
Total	1	3	1	1	1

There were no fatal or serious accidents involving fire service on pedestrian crossings recorded in 2002 to 2007. Where no Government office region or years are shown, there were no fatal or serious accidents recorded for that Government office region or year.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles are taxed to drive on UK roads. [227103]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As of the 31 December 2007 there were 33,956,832 vehicles taxed to drive on the roads of Great Britain.

Motorcycles: Parking

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will issue guidance to local authorities on regulating the parking of motorcycles in residents' parking bays; and if he will make a statement; [225673]

(2) if he will encourage local authorities to allow motorcycles to park free of charge in *(a)* residents' parking bays and *(b)* parking bays; and if he will make a statement. [225674]

Paul Clark: The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 gave local authorities flexible powers to provide, charge for, regulate and restrict on-street and off-street parking facilities, in a way that reflects the needs of their local communities. These are matters for local authorities and the Department for Transport has no plans to issue guidance on the use of those powers.

Where local authorities provide parking bays for use by specific classes of vehicle only, they are responsible for ensuring that the use of those facilities is correctly specified in Traffic Regulation Orders, where necessary, and indicated with appropriate signs and markings. The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 prescribe the traffic signs and road markings for motorcycle parking and for residents' parking bays. The Department for Transport's Traffic Signs Manual also provides detailed guidance on the correct design and use of signs and markings.

Motorways: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what average time it took to reopen a motorway to the full flow of traffic after a collision had occurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [227107]

Paul Clark: Nationally during September 2008 the average time to reopen a motorway to full flow following a collision was 51 minutes and nine seconds. However, this mean figure is skewed by a small number of more severe incidents. The median time taken to restore full capacity was 24 minutes.

Pedestrian Crossings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has better to publicise knowledge of the knurled knob on pelican crossings for those with disabilities and children. [225421]

Paul Clark: The Government have no wide reaching plans to publicise the provision of rotating cones (knurled knobs) at some controlled pedestrian crossings, but are aware of such knowledge being part of mobility training by organisations such as RNIB and Guide Dogs for the Blind UK.

Railways

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to respond to the Office of the Rail Regulator's review of the rail network draft determination. [226644]

Paul Clark: My officials submitted the Department for Transport's response to the Office of Rail Regulation's (ORR) 5 June publication, "Periodic Review 2008: Draft Determinations", on 4 September. The response has been published on the ORR website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/DDresp-dft-040908.pdf

Railways: Fares

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent 10 per cent. increases in off-peak fares between Milton Keynes and London Euston on London Midland's franchise commitment to increase passenger numbers. [225702]

Paul Clark: No assessment has been made of the fares changes brought into effect in September. These are unregulated fares, the levels of which are managed by London Midland.

Railways: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many submissions the Office of the Rail Regulator received as part of its review of the rail network draft determinations; how many of these related to the redoubling of the Kemble to Swindon track; and if he will publish the responses received. [226645]

Paul Clark: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) had a total of 114 responses to the draft determinations. Of these there were 40 that related to the Swindon-Kemble scheme. All 114 responses have been published on the ORR website with the Swindon-Kemble responses being available at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.9204

Railways: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his Department's staff are working on *(a)* high speed rail development and *(b)* the reopening of former railway lines and stations as part of their official duties. [226743]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's approach to developing transport strategy, set out in the October 2007 White Paper "Towards a Sustainable Transport System", proceeds from the identification of transport challenges and specific problems to be resolved, rather than by developing specific potential investment options.

The Department's rail network strategy division is working on this basis, and Network Rail has been invited to examine options for supporting further growth in the longer term, which might include new lines. Network Rail's new lines study is due to be completed in summer 2009.

Unadopted Roads

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many streets he estimates have remained unadopted for over *(a)* 75 years and *(b)* 100 years. [224887]

Paul Clark: We have no record of how many streets have remained unadopted for 75 or 100 years after they were built. This information is not held centrally, and there is no legal requirement for local authorities to maintain such a list in their areas.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Act on Carbon Dioxide

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many enquiries the Energy Saving Trust's Act on carbon dioxide advice line has dealt with in each month since April 2008. [226975]

Joan Ruddock: The Act on CO_2 advice line, launched in April 2008, provides consumers with comprehensive advice on how to reduce their carbon footprint.

The Act on CO_2 advice line run on behalf of the government by the Energy Savings Trust has dealt with the following inbound telephone inquiries each month since April:

Month	*Number of successful inbound calls excluding Scotland*
April	31,586
May	23,019

Month	Number of successful inbound calls excluding Scotland
June	27,914
July	34,274
August	33,708
September	93,377

The Energy Saving Trust's total customer contacts will increase through outreach events and other initiatives, customers will also receive advice via feedback on completed home energy checks and through electronic media.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in each of the last three financial years. [221162]

Jonathan Shaw: The information on reimbursable expenses is available only at disproportionate cost.

Disability Living Allowance: Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what restrictions there are on the use by students of disability living allowance to purchase equipment related to their disability. [227453]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no restrictions on what customers of disability living allowance can spend their benefit on. Customers are free to spend the benefit according to their own priorities.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 19 August, transferred from HM Treasury (PO reference: 1/60002/2008), on the poverty line for couples. [225992]

Mr. McNulty: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 13 October 2008.

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average occupational pension payable in the UK was in 2007-08. [226771]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

Information on the amount of occupational pension received by people of pension age can be found in table 3.7 of the publication 'The Pensioners' Incomes Series 2006/07' which may be found in the Library.

Pensioners: Overseas Residence

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what states are designated as non-qualifying destinations for the annual state pension uprating payable to UK pensioners overseas; [227161]

(2) what reason the annual pension uprating is withheld from state pensioners who have relocated to certain overseas countries on retirement; and if he will make a statement. [227162]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 October 2008]:* The UK state pension is payable world-wide but is only uprated abroad where there is a legal requirement to do so.

Annual upratings of the UK state pension are paid abroad under the EC's Social Security Regulations to pensioners who have a UK state pension and are living in the European economic area and Switzerland.

Upratings are also payable in countries and territories with which the UK has a reciprocal social security agreement that requires increases to be paid. The UK has such agreements covering: Barbados; Bermuda; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Croatia; Guernsey; Isle of Man; Israel; Jamaica; Jersey; Mauritius; Montenegro; the Philippines; Serbia; Turkey; the United States of America; and, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The UK state pension is not annually uprated in any other country.

Notes:

1. The agreement with Guernsey covers also Alderney, Herm and Jethou.

2. UK state pension recipients on other Channel Islands receive upratings under Regulation 12 of the Social Security (Persons Abroad) Regulations 1975 (SI 1975/563).

3. The agreement with United States of America covers also American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands).

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of extending the benefit of the annual state pension uprating to UK citizens in receipt of state pensions who are resident in Australia, Canada and South Africa; and if he will make a statement. [227163]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 October 2008]:* To uprate UK state pensions paid to persons in Australia, Canada and South Africa would cost approximately £380 million in 2008-09 and would increase year on year.

Notes:

1. This figure does not include paying any arrears.

2. The estimate for the cost of unfreezing frozen-rate pensions includes estimates for the rate of increase of the caseload and the impact of turnover in the caseload between the time of the data sample and the time of the uprating.

Source:

September 2007 Retirement Pension and Widows Benefit administrative data, 5 per cent. sample.

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many persons entitled to UK state pensions are not entitled to the annual state pension uprating by reason of their location overseas. [227164]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 October 2008]:* The latest estimate of the number of UK state pensions paid to pensioners living in frozen rate countries is approximately 530,000.

Source:

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 100 per cent. data, February 2008

Post Office Card Account: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether a disability impact assessment was carried out on the tendering process for the Post Office Card Account contract; [226764]

(2) what accessibility criteria were included in the tender for the Post Office card account contract. [226765]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* The Invitation to Tender requested that potential suppliers provide details of their facilities for disabled people and supplier responses were considered during the tender evaluation to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Acts of 1995 and 2005. The successful supplier will be contractually bound to provide the services in accordance with these Acts.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he is taking to reduce the levels of fraud and error in the benefit system; [226233]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to tackle benefit fraud. [226657]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* The Government are committed to paying the right benefits to the right people at the right time. As part of that commitment we have specific strategies in place to tackle both fraud and error.

We have a well defined and successful strategy for tackling benefit fraud based on preventing, detecting and deterring fraud. Strategy initiatives include professionally qualified investigators, a hard hitting media campaign and cross checking information on benefit claims against other data sources.

At 0.6 per cent. of benefit expenditure, fraud is at its lowest ever level. This is down from 2 per cent. in 2000-01. But we are not complacent and are introducing innovative new measures such as data matching with credit reference agencies and piloting voice risk analysis.

We are now applying the same drive and determination to tackle error. In January 2006, the Department created a task force with a specific aim of reducing official error in the most vulnerable benefits and has subsequently published and implemented its first ever error reduction strategy, published in January 2007. The strategy addresses both over and underpayments and is based on preventing new error from entering the system; ensuring that customers and staff comply with benefit rules and identifying and correcting existing errors.

The Department has also established a dedicated Benefit Simplification Unit to tackle complexity in the benefits system which is a major cause of error.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people did not receive benefits to which they were entitled due to *(a)* fraud and *(b)* error in the benefit system in each of the last five years. [226234]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* Information is not available.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of all cases of fraud and error in the benefit system that arose from misdirected mail in the latest period for which figures are available. [226655]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 October 2008]:* The information requested is not available. However, this Department has an agreement with Royal Mail not to redirect benefit related communications sent to customers by the Department and local authorities.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit payments were made in error due to fraud arising from the impersonation of the deceased in the latest period for which figures are available. [226656]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 October 2008]:* The information requested is not available. However we cross check our records with the Office for National Statistics on a weekly basis to capture information on deaths recorded with the local registrars so benefit payments can be stopped immediately in such cases.

Unemployment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the definition of the unemployment claimant count and any inclusions to or exclusions from that count have changed since 1997; and what the reason for the change was in each case. [226203]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many times the definition of the unemployment claimant count and any inclusions to or exclusions from that count have changed since 1997; and what the reason for the change was in each case. (226203)

The definition of the unemployment claimant count has not changed since 1997, following the introduction of Jobseeker's Allowance in 1996.

Although not a change to the definition of the unemployment claimant count, the introduction of the system of joint claims for Jobseeker's Allowance from 2001 has meant that both members of certain couples are now required to claim JSA jointly and both are required to look for work. This change has led to certain claims being counted as two separate claims when they would previously have appeared as one claim. Without this change, the current level of the unemployment claimant count would be about 9,000 lower than it currently is.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Leader of the House how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day her Office has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226812]

Chris Bryant: The Leader of the House of Commons has substantively answered 100 per cent. of the 34 named day questions on the specified date so far in the current parliamentary session.

The information is available on the Commons Leader website at:

www.commonsleader.gov.uk.

Parliamentary Session

Mr. Baron: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many hours the House sat in each session *(a)* in 1980, *(b)* in 1990 and *(c)* in each session between 1996 and 2006; [227355]

Mr. Baron: To ask the Leader of the House how many hours the House spent considering *(a)* primary legislation on the Floor of the House and *(b)* delegated legislation (i) in Committee and (ii) on the floor of the House in each session commencing in (A) 1980, (B) 1990 and (C) each session between 1996 and 2006.[1] [227367]

Chris Bryant: The information given in the table is available in the sessional information digests:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmsid.htm

	Number of hours the house sat each session		*Number of hours considering primary legislation on the floor of the house*		*Number of hours considering delegated legislation on the floor of the house*	
	Hours	*Minutes*	*Hours*	*Minutes*	*Hours*	*Minutes*
1980-81	1,485	11	n/a		n/a	
1990-91	1,373	53	393	64	65	50
1996-97	717	45	221	41	45	88
1997-98	2,117	36	859	45	42	65
1998- 99	1,378	50	458	64	36	62
1999-2000	1,442	41	640	66	31	88
2000-01	690	27	283	36	26	82
2001-02	1,540	40	676	93	24	58
2002-03	1,287	15	484	53	18	12
2003-04	1,215	19	460	89	14	35
2004-05	531	16	216	15	9	30
2005-06	1,572	07	701	79	18	09
2006-07	1,118	52	367	04	17	61

n/a = Not available. Up until the 1984-85 session the sitting hours were not broken down. Therefore, only the total number of sitting hours can be provided.

The number of hours considering primary legislation and delegated legislation in committee can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small- and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226492]

Mr. Wills: The proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from all businesses paid within 30 days of receipt in 2007-08 is as follows:

		Percentage
(a)	Ministry of Justice Core Department[1]	90
(b)	Executive agencies of the Ministry of Justice[2]	77

[1] Ministry of Justice Core Department includes former Department for Constitutional Affairs HQ, Wales Office, Scotland Office, Office for Criminal Justice Reform and National Offender Management Service HQ elements.

[2] Executive agencies for the Ministry of Justice include HM Courts Service, Tribunals Service, Office of the Public Guardian and HM Prison Service.

The Ministry has launched a major drive to improve this performance towards the target of paying 100 per cent. of correctly rendered invoices within 30 days. Two of the main actions are to enforce compliance with purchasing processes within the Ministry, and to reinforce the policy with suppliers that they are required to send their invoices directly to the Shared Service Centre which processes payments centrally, rather than to individual offices around the Ministry.

The proportion of invoices paid within 30 days of receipt for small and medium sized businesses could be provided only at a disproportionate cost, as the Department does not currently hold this information.

The Ministry welcomes the initiative announced by the Prime Minister in Prime Minister's Questions on 8 October 2008, and is preparing plans to pay all small and medium-sized enterprises within 10 days of receipt of invoice.

Departmental Reviews

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in the interdepartmental review on representative actions; and how many officials have responsibility for the review, broken down by pay band. [225741]

Bridget Prentice: An inter-departmental steering group of officials has been established to consider this issue. It has met twice, most recently on 29 September, and has agreed to organise a meeting with the Civil Justice Council (CJC) to discuss its interim report. The group will advise ministers on the way forward early next year.

1. *[Official Report, 10 November 2008, Vol. 482, c. 3MC.]*

following publication of the CJC's final report. This process is being managed by two Ministry of Justice officials at Band A and Band B (under the oversight of a member of the senior civil service). None of these officials work exclusively on this area.

Lancaster Farms Young Offender Institute

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to relieve overcrowding on the young offenders side of Her Majesty's Young Offender Institute, Lancaster Farms in order to allow ex-juvenile offenders to transfer from the juvenile side on reaching their 18th birthday. [226471]

Mr. Hanson: The policy of the Youth Justice Board is that those young people serving a Detention and Training Order aged 18 and over in a Prison Service unit should remain in the young persons' estate to complete the custodial part of their sentence unless there are exceptional personal or population management circumstances which require them to be moved to the young adult estate.

For those sentenced to longer sentences, arrangements are in place to ensure that within a month of their 18th birthday they are relocated to the young adult estate.

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average elapsed between the time that prisoners were unlocked in the morning and returned to their cells in the evening in the last three months for which figures are available; and what the average number of returns to and releases during the day was *(a)* on weekdays and *(b)* at weekends, broken down by each (i) adult (A) male and (B) female prison and (ii) (1) male and (2) female young offender institution in England and Wales. [226253]

Mr. Hanson: The average weekday time out of cell for the last three available months is shown in the following table. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing validation.

	Average weekday time out of cell
May	9.53
June	9.57
July	9.72

The National Offender Management Service does not collate data on the number of returns to cells and releases from cells during the day, on *(a)* weekdays and *(b)* weekends. Therefore, this data cannot be provided for each prison.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners from London are being held in prisons outside London; [227119]

(2) how many prisoners were held in prisons outside the criminal justice area of their last known address in each of the last 10 years, broken down by criminal justice area. [227120]

Mr. Hanson: As at March 2008 (the latest date for which data are available), 11,200 prisoners out of a total of 16,600 prisoners who gave London as their home area were held outside of London. This issue is one of the reasons why we are seeking to extend capacity through the larger prison programme in London and the South East.

Data on the distance from criminal justice area are only available from 2005 onwards and is shown in the tables.

Average figures for distance from home for prisoners are 50 miles for men and 58 miles for women.

	September 2005			*September 2006*		
CJ area	*Number of prisoners from area*	*Number of prisoners from CJ area held outside area*	*Proportion of prisoners held out of CJ area (Percentage)*	*Number of prisoners from area*	*Number of prisoners from CJ area held outside area*	*Proportion of prisoners held out of CJ area (Percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	1,727	1,157	67	1,699	1,162	68
Bedfordshire	881	641	73	938	733	78
Cambridgeshire	779	423	54	834	487	58
Cheshire	1,337	1,047	78	1,287	1,012	79
Cleveland	1,353	707	52	1,217	641	53
Cumbria	471	390	83	495	413	83
Derbyshire	1,052	1,004	95	1,115	1,071	96
Devon and Cornwall	1,474	693	47	1,325	547	41
Dorset	610	293	48	682	354	52
Durham	409	327	80	696	537	77
Dyfed-Powys	386	386	100	430	430	100
Essex	1,453	1,090	75	1,543	1,201	78
Gloucestershire	487	322	66	558	408	73
Greater Manchester	5,063	2,670	53	5,212	2,907	56
Gwent	498	465	93	583	534	92
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1,969	1,078	55	1,996	1,145	57
Hertfordshire	837	783	94	917	876	96

CJ area	September 2005			September 2006		
	Number of prisoners from area	Number of prisoners from CJ area held outside area	Proportion of prisoners held out of CJ area (Percentage)	Number of prisoners from area	Number of prisoners from CJ area held outside area	Proportion of prisoners held out of CJ area (Percentage)
Humberside	1,509	750	50	1,393	689	49
Kent	2,059	618	30	2,049	790	39
Lancashire	2,391	1,056	44	2,400	1,134	47
Leicestershire	1,150	645	56	1,184	681	58
Lincolnshire	598	375	63	609	416	68
London	12,690	7,632	60	13,548	8,584	63
Merseyside	2,848	1,816	64	3,268	2,199	67
Norfolk	824	431	52	775	393	51
North Wales	657	657	100	654	654	100
North Yorkshire	679	663	98	720	706	98
Northamptonshire	824	648	79	895	724	81
Northumbria	1,832	1,344	73	1,821	1,338	73
Nottinghamshire	1,917	1,332	69	1,994	1,379	69
South Wales	2,058	818	40	2,031	764	38
South Yorkshire	2,394	1,108	46	2,516	1,275	51
Staffordshire	1,346	999	74	1,207	921	76
Suffolk	556	472	85	650	538	83
Surrey	629	392	62	747	496	66
Sussex	1,590	1,106	70	1,619	1,122	69
Thames Valley	2,028	917	45	2,220	1,104	50
Warwickshire	657	657	100	507	507	100
West Mercia	1,287	843	66	1,153	762	66
West Midlands	4,825	3,712	77	5,984	4,810	80
West Yorkshire	3,842	2,072	54	3,926	2,231	57
Wiltshire	405	371	92	465	423	91

CJ area	September 2007			March 2008		
	Number of prisoners from area	Number of prisoners from CJ area held outside area	Proportion of prisoners held out of CJ area (Percentage)	Number of prisoners from area	Number of prisoners from CJ area held outside area	Proportion of prisoners held out of CJ area (Percentage)
Avon and Somerset	1,633	1,125	69	1,705	1,187	70
Bedfordshire	835	654	78	884	686	78
Cambridgeshire	845	497	59	882	532	60
Cheshire	1,222	1,062	87	1,206	1,073	89
Cleveland	1,246	712	57	1,245	697	56
Cumbria	531	464	87	521	417	80
Derbyshire	1,147	1,098	96	1,139	1,076	94
Devon and Cornwall	1,295	574	44	1,232	575	47
Dorset	644	377	59	651	403	62
Durham	634	495	78	681	526	77
Dyfed-Powys	223	223	100	253	253	100
Essex	1,479	1,087	73	1,521	1,161	76
Gloucestershire	581	449	77	584	457	78
Greater Manchester	5,596	3,150	56	5,665	3,247	57
Gwent	593	524	88	585	516	88
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1,975	1,229	62	1,956	1,212	62
Hertfordshire	739	709	96	769	747	97
Humberside	1,491	728	49	1,544	780	51
Kent	1,987	825	42	1,988	867	44
Lancashire	2,437	1,177	48	2,318	1,082	47
Leicestershire	1,098	745	68	1,102	768	70
Lincolnshire	636	413	65	647	403	62
London	16,203	10,793	67	16,664	11,218	67

CJ area	September 2007 Number of prisoners from area	Number of prisoners from CJ area held outside area	Proportion of prisoners held out of CJ area (Percentage)	March 2008 Number of prisoners from area	Number of prisoners from CJ area held outside area	Proportion of prisoners held out of CJ area (Percentage)
Merseyside	3,120	1,949	62	3,214	1,973	61
Norfolk	812	480	59	814	517	64
North Wales	752	752	100	782	782	100
North Yorkshire	668	637	95	632	603	95
Northamptonshire	1,011	845	84	969	794	82
Northumbria	1,953	1,411	72	1,863	1,334	72
Nottinghamshire	1,858	1,287	69	1,954	1,385	71
South Wales	2,281	752	33	2,373	784	33
South Yorkshire	2,502	1,211	48	2,512	1,234	49
Staffordshire	1,266	981	77	1,298	993	77
Suffolk	553	462	84	571	483	85
Surrey	631	424	67	642	426	66
Sussex	1,719	1,259	73	1,704	1,212	71
Thames Valley	2,198	1,145	52	2,171	1,166	54
Warwickshire	561	561	100	490	490	100
West Mercia	1,065	748	70	1,114	779	70
West Midlands	5,573	4,633	83	5,807	4,788	82
West Yorkshire	3,907	2,534	65	4,054	2,764	68
Wiltshire	421	388	92	444	407	92

Prisoners: Employment

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what partnerships each prison developed with external companies to provide *(a)* training and *(b)* work for prisoners in each of the last five years. [227122]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has a significant number of relationships, including partnerships and commercial contracts, with private, public and voluntary sector organisations aimed at providing training and work for prisoners. Governors have for some time been encouraged to develop a range of local initiatives in this area. NOMS has just begun a process of mapping these activities. I will write to the hon. Member when the exercise is complete.

Prisons: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours of training *(a)* on average and *(b)* in total prison governors have received relating to illegal drugs in the last 12 months. [226549]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service does not hold central records of all the training undertaken by governors or other prison staff. Any such information would be recorded at a local level and collating this information would incur disproportionate costs.

HM Prison Service attaches great importance to the learning and development of all staff, including prison officers, ensuring that they are equipped with the right skills at the right time in their Prison Service career. This includes NOMS drugs strategy.

WALES

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its Executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226967]

Mr. Paul Murphy: We have details of receptions given by the Wales Office. My predecessor hosted two Christmas receptions in the financial year 2007-08, one in London and one in Cardiff. They were attended by parliamentarians, journalists and those with an interest in Welsh affairs generally. The cost was £5,058.

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226512]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has not commissioned any advertising in the last 12 months.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227468]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Referendums

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the policy of the Government is on the submission to Parliament of any request for a referendum made by the Welsh Assembly Government during the present term of the Assembly under Part IV of the Government of Wales Act 2006. [226116]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Any request for a referendum made by the Welsh Assembly Government would be dealt with under the provision of section 104 and schedule 6 of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which voluntary organisations she has met to discuss their involvement in the delivery and legacy aspects of the 2012 Games; and what the outcome has been of these discussions. [226586]

Tessa Jowell: Voluntary organisations are key to the Government's vision for 2012. I have met a number of them including Cancer Research, Fields in Trust, the Prince's Trust, Sport England, Thames 21, V, Volunteering England, the Work Foundation and the Youth Sport Trust, and have addressed over two hundred representatives of these and other local and national voluntary organisations at various events. These events have informed the Government's ambition for encouraging tens of thousands more young people to give time to their local communities, directly or indirectly, as a result of the Games as set out in the published Legacy Action Plan. More information can be found at

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/2012LegacyActionPlan.pdf.

I continue to liaise with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games as it develops its recruitment programme for volunteers needed to deliver the Games in 2012, which is to be launched in 2010.

PRIME MINISTER

Written Questions: Government Responses

Peter Luff: To ask the Prime Minister if he will review the accuracy of the answer given by his predecessor to the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire on 12 November 1997 relating to Formula One sponsorship to ensure any inaccuracies and inadvertently misleading statements are corrected. [227361]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by Mr. Speaker on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 557.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many closure notices have been issued under section 169A of the Licensing Act 2003 for persistently selling alcohol to children. [226019]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The offence only came into force on 7 April 2007. The latest available licensing statistics cover the period until 31 March 2007 and are therefore outside the period of this offence coming into force. We have asked for data during our most recent statistics collection covering the period from 1 March 2007 to 31 March 2008, so we anticipate having figures when these are published on 31 October.

Arts

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which regional development agencies will pilot creative economy strategic frameworks; and when he expects the pilots to *(a)* begin and *(b)* end. [227173]

Barbara Follett: The Regional Creative Economy Strategic Frameworks are being piloted by the North West Regional Development Agency and the South West Regional Development Agency.

The south west's pilot started on 19 May 2008 and is expected to end in January 2010.

The north west's pilot began in May 2008. They will report on their consultation in January 2009. The recommendations will then be incorporated into the region's Integrated Regional Strategy in 2010.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what date he expects to have developed the Menu for Local Infrastructure to be used by local authorities to attract creative industries to their area. [227175]

Barbara Follett: The Menu for Local Infrastructure will be developed by the Local Government Association (LGA) with the support of the regional development agencies, DCMS and others. The LGA plans to publish the menu in the spring of 2009, according to current timetables.

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions English Heritage has had with representatives of *(a)* the Roman Catholic Church and *(b)* non-conformist churches on the repair and upkeep of church buildings. [226699]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage has advised that it holds regular discussions with faith groups including the Roman Catholic and non-conformist churches about the repair and upkeep of church buildings. They meet formally through its Places of Worship Forum which sits four times a year. English Heritage's Inspired! is the umbrella campaign for all its support for places of worship.

Cycling: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been allocated to support *(a)* individual cyclists and *(b)* the British Cycling Federation from (i) the National Lottery and (ii) his Department as grant-in-aid in each year since 1997. [224839]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Funding in support of British Cyclists and the British Cycling Federation is provided by Sport England and UK Sport. Sport England and UK Sport have advised that detailed breakdowns of funding for individual athletes could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but they have provided figures for overall grants in each year since 1997 as follows:

Sport England funding

	Lottery				*Exchequer*		
	World Class Programme Funding	*One Step Plan Funding*	*Everyday Cycling Programme*	*Club and Coach Programme*	*Development Funding*	*PE and School Sport for Young People*	*National Sports Foundation*
1997-98	19,679	0	0	0	No record	0	0
1998-99	0	0	0	0	159,000	0	0
1999-2000	385,360	0	0	0	276,000	0	0
2000-01	13,729,927	0	0	0	270,000	0	0
2001-02	1,885,877	0	0	0	270,000	0	0
2002-03	4,217,719	0	0	0	277,500	0	0
2003-04	672,110	200,000	0	0	297,350	0	0
2004-05	6,589	75,000	0	0	270,000	90,000	0
2005-06	5,000	2,915,000	0	0	0	95,000	0
2006-07	0	4,176,000	0	0	0	122,500	314,762
2007-08	0	195,000	250,000	2,138,032	0	122,500	112,500
2008-09	0	0	250,000	0	0	117,500	0

UK Sport funding

£

	Lottery		*Exchequer*	
	NGB	*APA*	*NGB*	*Total*
1997-98	325,000	487,000	334,000	1,146,000
1998-99	711,000	765,000	393,000	1,869,000
1999-2000	1,412,000	722,000	375,000	2,509,000
2000-01	1,546,000	895,000	0	2,441,000
2001-02	2,113,000	398,000	385,000	2,896,000
2002-03	1,306,000	420,000	440,000	2,166,000
2003-04	1,628,000	437,000	450,000	2,515,000
2004-05	1,873,000	458,000	612,000	2,943,000
2005-06	0	553,000	2,632,000	3,185,000
2006-07	1,913,000	742,000	3,820,000	6,475,000
2007-08	1,636,000	969,000	4,208,000	6,813,000
	14,463,000	6,846,000	13,649,000	34,958,000

Additionally, in the financial year 2001-02 UK Sport allocated £37,486 of lottery funding to host the World Track Cycling Championships.

Departmental Land

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what use has been made of the income relating to the sale by his Department of the land to the north of the British Library. [224766]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department is retaining £39.8 million from the sale of this asset. £30 million of this will be used to meet the CSR asset disposal target and has been allocated accordingly. The balance was used to part fund the purchase of the D'Offay art collection by the Tate Galleries.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of his Department's spending on administration in 2007-08 was in relation to *(a)* the 2012 Olympics, *(b)* the arts, *(c)* sports, *(d)* heritage, *(e)* tourism, *(f)* licensing and *(g)* the creative industries. [225504]

Andy Burnham: The administration costs (the direct costs of departmental policy development and implementation) directly relating to each area of responsibility were as follows.

£	
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games	5,480,000
Arts	1,826,000
Sports	1,827,000
Heritage (architecture and the built environment only)	1,315,000
Tourism and licensing	1,220,000
The creative industries (including broadcasting)	2,562,000

Tourism, licensing and other policy responsibilities for the hospitality industry were the responsibility of a single division, and it is not possible to disaggregate the costs without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken in response to the findings from his Department's most recent annual staff survey. [224975]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department had its last staff survey in June 2007. The results were presented to the Executive Committee in September 2007. Following on from this the Evidence and Analysis Unit in the Department developed a pulse survey to go out to a sample of staff on a regular basis to measure progress against the action plan to support the transformation programme.

English Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what income his Department received from English Heritage in each of the last 10 years. [225285]

Barbara Follett: In each of the last 10 years my Department has received rental income from English Heritage as set out in the table.

£

	Retained by DCMS	*Surrendered to the Consolidated Fund*
1998-99	0	863,000
1999-00	0	863,000
2000-01	0	863,000
2001-02	0	863,000
2002-03	0	863,000
2003-04	0	863,000
2004-05	0	863,000
2005-06	0	872,000
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	0	0

English Heritage: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average price of entry to an English Heritage property was in each of the last three years. [224974]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been provided by English Heritage and is set out in the following table. The average charge shown is based on one full-price adult ticket. English Heritage has over 400 sites in its care of which around 112 are staffed and charge admission. The remaining sites are free to visit.

	Maximum charge (£)	*Minimum charge (£)*	*Average charge (£)*	*Number of sites*
2005-06	8.85	2.00	3.66	116
2006-07	9.50	2.00	3.82	117
2007-08	9.80	2.40	4.09	112

The main reason that entry fees for English Heritage sites have gone up faster than the rate of inflation is the investment at many key sites. English Heritage has invested over £21 million to improve the visitor experience at sites like Kenilworth, Battle Abbey and Audley End. English Heritage average admission prices have traditionally been behind that of the market. In 2007-08 the average adult admission charge for English Heritage properties was £4.09, while the average for all attractions in England was £5.00.

Invest to Save Budget

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Invest to Save bids were sponsored by his Department in each of the last three years. [225677]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows how many Invest to Save bids were sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in the last three years.

	Bid round	*Bids sponsored*
2005-06	8	12
2006-07	9	1
2007-08	[1]	0

[1] ISB ceased.

National Lottery: Bolton

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many projects in Bolton North East have received awards from National Lottery funding bodies; and how much those awards came to in total. [226270]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 390 projects in the Bolton North East constituency have received lottery funding with a total value of £51,590,068.

These figures refer only to grants specifically located within, and benefiting the constituency area and excludes those grants which may have been attributed to addresses in the constituency, to headquarters offices for example, but which have a wider geographical benefit. These figures are derived from the Department's lottery grants database, which uses information supplied by lottery distributors and is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

National Lottery: Yorkshire and the Humber

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Lottery funding available has been awarded to organisations in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Yorkshire over the last 12 months. [226382]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Leeds local authority area received 0.99 per cent. of the funding made available by the Lottery distributors over the period 10 October 2007 to 10 October 2008. The Yorkshire and the Humber region received 7.39 per cent. over the same period.

Lottery grants are not awarded on a geographical basis but are made in response to the quality of applications received and against the distributing bodies' funding criteria.

The figures quoted refer only to grants specifically located within, and benefiting the Leeds local authority area and the Yorkshire and the Humber region and excludes those grants which may have been attributed to addresses in these areas, to headquarters offices for example, but which have a wider geographical benefit. These grant figures are derived from the Department's lottery grants database, which uses information supplied by Lottery distributors and is searchable at

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk.

Public Libraries

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the modernisation review of England's public library service to report. [227171]

Barbara Follett: The Library Service Modernisation Review is expected to report in the spring of 2009.

Regional Cultural Consortiums: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding he has allocated for regional cultural consortia in each of the next three years. [225475]

Barbara Follett: The Regional Cultural Consortiums currently receive annual grant in aid of approximately £1.7 million. The Consortiums are in the process of being dissolved and will all cease to operate 31 March 2009. No further funding has been allocated to the Consortiums beyond this date.

We are providing an extra £50,000 per annum per region in 2009-10 and £25,000 per annum per region in 2010-11 to the four key public bodies, to assist them in developing and implementing their plans for the new arrangements in their regions.

World Heritage Sites

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the guidelines for applicants for World Heritage Status will be published. [226879]

Barbara Follett: The Government will publish a consultation document on its UK World Heritage Review shortly. Should we decide, following the outcome of the consultation, to revise the current UK Tentative List, appropriate guidelines on applications for inclusion on the List will be made available

SCOTLAND

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226799]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has incurred no costs on recruitment consultants in the last five years; in 2006-07, the Office spent £8,069 on recruitment advertising.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day questions his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226891]

Ann McKechin: Details of the percentage of written named day questions answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament are shown in the following table:

	Number of named day questions tabled	*Percentage of named day questions answered on the date specified*
2007		
November	9	78
December	2	0
2008		
January	3	100
February	0	n/a
March	0	n/a
April	1	100
May	1	100
June	1	0
July	0	n/a
September	1	100

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers: Shipbuilding

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the first plate of metal for each of the two new aircraft carriers will be cut. [227357]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The formal cutting of the first plate of metal for each of the new aircraft carriers corresponds with the start of production in the main shipyards, which is expected to commence in early 2009 for HMS Queen Elizabeth and mid-2010 for HMS Prince of Wales. However, long lead items, including steel, have been procured.

Armed Forces: Dogs

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military working dogs his Department had in each year since 1997, broken down by type of dog. [226904]

Mr. Kevan Jones: At 1 August 2008, holdings of Military Working Dogs by type were:

Type	*Total*
Patrol Dogs	512
Army/RAF Police	21
Police Dogs	223

Type	Total
Arms and Explosive Search	89
Vehicle Search	35
Drug Detection	8
Multi Purpose Drug Detection	11
Tracker	10
Infantry Patrol	2
Explosive Detection Dog	0
Total	911

This figure is a snapshot in time, and includes those dogs being trained, those in service in the UK and those deployed on operations. It should be noted that the number of holdings may vary weekly according to training input and outflow, together with operational demand. The Ministry of Defence is currently reviewing its holdings of Military Working Dogs to ensure that its holdings meet its requirements.

Information for previous years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much on average it cost to train fully a military working dog of each breed used in the latest period for which figures are available. [226905]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The approximate average cost of training a successful dog by type in 2006-07 (the latest year for which data are available) is shown in the following table.

Type of dog	Cost per successful dog (£)
Patrol Dogs	8,200
Army/RAF Police Dogs	15,000
MOD Police Dogs[1]	-
Arms and Explosives Search Dogs	22,600
Vehicle Search Dogs	7,300
Multi Purpose Drug Detection Dogs	15,500
Tracker Dogs	8,500

[1] Training a Ministry of Defence police or Military Guard Service dog up to the point on its introduction into service will cost the same as training an Army or RAF police dog. Wethersfield dog section provides further continuous annual training for all MOD police dogs. The cost of this additional training is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military working dogs were killed in service in each year since 1997; what type of dog was involved in each case; and what the *(a)* location and *(b)* circumstances of death were in each case. [226990]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since November 2006, approximately 250 dogs have died in service. It is not possible to break down this figure by type of dog, location or circumstances. However, in the majority of cases (around 55 per cent.) death occurred at the Defence Animal Centre in Melton Mowbray, as this is where many dogs are returned at the end of their service.

Figures are not available prior to November 2006, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fully trained military working dog handlers there were in the armed forces in each year since 1997. [226991]

Mr. Kevan Jones: At 1 August 2008, there were 1,087 military working dog handlers across Defence. Of these, there were none in the Royal Navy, 178 were with the Army and 199 were with the Royal Air Force. The remaining 710 dog handlers were with the various policing and guarding services across the Ministry of Defence.

Data for previous years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of foreign armed forces received *(a)* training and *(b)* hospitality at UK military establishments in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) nationality and (ii) reason for providing training; and whether conditions applied to the provision of the training. [226842]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since April 2003, 20,601 members of foreign armed forces from 147 countries have received training at military establishments in the United Kingdom. All of these individuals will have received some form of hospitality from the training establishment, ranging from a basic welcoming reception to the provision of MOD service accommodation. This applies to all course places whether they are part or fully paid for by MOD, or whether the country in question pays for the training itself.

The principal objective of this training activity is to use British Defence assets in peacetime to discourage hostility abroad, build and maintain trust between states, facilitate inter-operability with British armed forces, and assist in the development of democratically accountable armed forces; thereby helping to make a significant contribution to conflict prevention and resolution. The provision of training is also undertaken for income generation purposes, but all offers of training are made only where they comply with wider Government policy on engagement and the relevant security restrictions applying to each country.

The list of countries receiving training and the total numbers of students trained by financial year is shown as follows.

Country	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[1]	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Afghanistan	-	•	•	•	•	•
Albania	•	•	•	-	•	•
Algeria	•	•	•	•	•	•
Angola	-	•	•	-	-	-
Antigua and Barbuda	•	•	•	•	•	•
Argentina	•	•	•	•	•	•

Country	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[1]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Armenia	—	•	•	•	•	—
Australia	•	•	•	•	•	•
Austria	•	•	•	•	•	•
Azerbaijan	•	•	•	•	—	—
Bahamas	•	•	—	—	•	•
Bahrain	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bangladesh	•	•	•	•	•	•
Barbados	•	•	•	•	•	•
Belarus	—	—	—	—	•	•
Belgium	•	•	•	•	•	•
Belize	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bhutan	—	•	—	—	—	—
Bolivia	•	•	—	—	—	—
Bosnia-Herzegovina	•	—	•	—	•	•
Botswana	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brazil	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brunei	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bulgaria	•	•	•	•	•	•
Burundi	—	—	•	•	—	—
Cambodia	—	—	•	—	—	—
Canada	•	•	•	•	•	•
Chile	•	•	•	•	•	•
China (inc. Hong Kong)	•	•	•	•	•	•
Colombia	•	•	•	•	•	—
Congo Rep	—	—	—	—	•	—
Cote D'Ivoire	—	•	—	—	—	—
Croatia	•	•	•	•	•	—
Czech Republic	•	•	•	•	•	•
Democratic Rep. Congo	—	—	•	•	•	•
Denmark	•	•	•	•	•	•
Djibouti	—	—	•	•	—	—
ECOWAS (West Africa unspec.)[2]	—	—	—	•	—	—
Ecuador	—	—	•	—	—	—
Egypt	•	•	•	•	•	•
El Salvador	—	—	•	—	—	—
Eritrea	—	•	—	—	—	—
Estonia	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ethiopia	•	•	•	•	—	•
Fiji	•	•	•	•	—	—
Finland	•	•	•	•	•	•
France	•	•	•	•	•	•
Gabon	—	—	•	•	•	—
Gambia	•	•	•	•	•	•
Georgia	•	•	•	•	•	•
Germany	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ghana	—	•	•	•	•	•
Greece	•	•	•	•	•	•
Guatemala	•	•	•	•	—	—
Guyana	•	•	•	•	•	—
Honduras	•	—	•	—	—	—
Hungary	•	•	•	•	•	•
Iceland	—	•	•	•	—	—
India	•	•	•	•	•	•
Indonesia	•	•	•	•	•	•
Iraq	•	•	•	•	•	•
Israel	•	•	•	•	•	•
Italy	•	•	•	•	•	•
Jamaica	•	•	•	•	•	•
Japan	•	•	•	•	•	•
Jordan	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kazakhstan	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kenya	•	•	•	•	•	•
Korea	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kuwait	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kyrgyzstan	•	—	•	—	—	—

Country	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[1]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Latvia	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lebanon	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lesotho	—	—	•	•	—	—
Liberia	—	—	—	—	•	—
Libya	—	•	•	—	•	—
Lithuania	•	•	•	•	•	•
Luxembourg	•	•	—	•	•	—
Macedonia	•	•	—	•	•	•
Malawi	•	•	•	•	•	•
Malaysia	•	•	•	•	•	•
Maldives	—	—	•	—	•	—
Malta	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mauritania	—	—	—	—	•	—
Mauritius	•	•	—	•	—	—
Mexico	•	—	—	—	—	—
Moldova	•	•	•	•	—	•
Mongolia	—	—	•	•	•	—
Morocco	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mozambique	•	•	•	•	—	—
Namibia	•	—	•	•	•	•
NATO and EUROCORPS unspec.[2]	—	•	•	—	•	•
Nepal	•	•	•	•	•	•
Netherlands	•	•	•	•	•	•
New Zealand	•	•	•	•	•	•
Nicaragua	—	—	•	—	—	—
Nigeria	•	•	•	•	•	•
Norway	•	•	•	•	•	•
Oman	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pakistan	•	•	•	•	•	•
Palestine	—	—	—	•	•	—
Panama	—	—	•	—	—	—
Papua New Guinea	—	—	—	—	—	•
Peru	—	•	•	•	•	•
Philippines	•	•	•	•	•	—
Poland	•	•	•	•	•	•
Portugal	•	•	•	•	•	•
Qatar	•	•	•	•	•	•
Republic of Ireland	•	•	•	•	•	•
Romania	•	•	•	•	•	•
Russia	•	•	•	•	•	—
Rwanda	—	—	•	•	•	•
Saudi Arabia	•	•	•	•	•	•
Senegal	•	•	•	•	•	•
Serbia and Montenegro	•	•	•	•	•	•
Seychelles	—	—	•	•	—	—
Sierra Leone	•	•	•	•	•	•
Singapore	•	•	•	•	•	•
Slovakia	•	•	•	•	•	•
Slovenia	•	•	•	•	•	•
South Africa	•	•	•	•	•	•
Spain	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sri Lanka	•	•	•	•	•	•
St. Kitts and Nevis	•	—	•	—	—	—
St. Lucia	—	—	•	—	—	—
St. Vincent and The Grenadines	•	—	•	•	—	—
Sudan	—	•	—	•	•	•
Swaziland	•	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden	•	•	•	•	•	•
Switzerland	•	•	•	•	•	•
Syria	•	•	•	•	—	•
Tajikistan	—	•	—	—	—	—
Tanzania	•	•	•	•	•	•
Thailand	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tonga	—	•	•	•	—	—
Trinidad and Tobago	•	•	•	•	•	•

Country	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[1]	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Tunisia	•	•	•	—	—	—
Turkey	•	•	•	•	•	•
Turkmenistan	—	•	—	—	—	—
Uganda	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ukraine	•	•	•	•	•	•
United Arab Emirates	•	•	•	•	•	•
USA	•	•	•	•	•	•
Uruguay	•	•	•	•	•	•
Uzbekistan	•	•	—	—	—	—
Venezuela	—	•	•	—	—	—
Vietnam	—	•	•	•	•	
Yemen	•	•	•	•	•	•
Zambia	•	•	•	•	•	—
Total	4,685	3,103	2,985	3,628	3,696	2,504
Total all years			20,671			

• = Indicates personnel from that country commenced training at UK military establishments in that year 2008-09 figures are based on attendance in year to date. Where a course spans two plus financial years, the • indicates year that training commenced. There may be a few instances where a student was present in a "blank" year indicated with a "—" for this reason.

[1] Records for FY 2005-06 for students attending Land Warfare Centre may be incomplete, owing to possible corruption of data when there was a change of databases.

[2] Some attendance records only denote that the student was part of a contingent from ECOWAS or was from a NATO member. They would have been West African or Western European respectively, but otherwise nationality is unknown.

Caveats:

1. Foreign military personnel attending exercises in UK and Exchange Officers are excluded.
2. Where one student attended two different courses he/she may be counted twice.

Army Boards of Inquiry

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army Boards of Inquiry have been convened since 1997; and how many of these have been reconvened. [224793]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Labour Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow, *(b)* outflow and *(c)* voluntary outflow figures for the Army rates were in each year since 2003, broken down by corps. [226982]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following tables show the available information on inflow, outflow and voluntary outflow for the Arms and Service of the Regular Army Soldiers by financial year since 1 April 2003.

Due to ongoing validation of data following the implementation of the new joint personnel administration (JPA) system, flow information for 2007-08 is only available at the whole Army level and is not yet available analysed by Arm/Service. To provide this information at the present time would incur disproportionate cost.

Work on the analysis of intake and outflows is currently ongoing and once available, this information will be sent to the hon. Member and a copy placed in the Library of the House.

Table 1: Soldier intake[1] from civilian life to UK Regular Army[2] by Arm Service and financial year from 2003

	Financial year				
Arm Service	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07[3•]	2007-08
Household Cavalry Regiment	140	110	80	150	n/a
Royal Armoured Corps	600	290	610	630	n/a
Royal Regiment of Artillery	1,020	650	780	890	n/a
Corps of Royal Engineers	1,110	940	1,480	1,260	n/a
Royal Corps of Signals	1,060	800	780	720	n/a
Infantry	4,850	3,570	3,610	3,980	n/a
Army Air Corps	350	250	230	180	n/a
The Royal Logistics Corps	2,420	2,270	2,180	1,890	n/a
Royal Army Medical Corps	340	300	340	340	n/a
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	1,460	1,100	1,280	1,240	n/a
Adjutant-General's Corps	660	400	250	300	n/a
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	20	20	10	40	n/a
Small Arms School Corps	0	0	0	0	n/a
Royal Army Dental Corps	20	20	20	30	n/a
Intelligence Corps	110	110	160	170	n/a
Army Physical Training Corps	0	0	0	0	n/a
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	90	70	60	40	n/a

Table 1: Soldier intake[1] from civilian life to UK Regular Army[2] by Arm Service and financial year from 2003

	Financial year				
Arm Service	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07[3]*	*2007-08*
Corps of Army Music	60	50	30	30	n/a
Total[4]	14,310	10,940	11,910	11,890	[5]13,460

n/a = Not available.
[1] Figures show Soldier intake to UK Regular Army including re-enlistments, rejoined reservists but excluding transfers between Arms and Services.
[2] UK Regular Army excludes full-time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service Personnel of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.
[3] 2006-07 Arm Service split contains only 11 months' data due to the implementation of the JPA system in March 2007.
[4] Due to the implementation of the JPA system, the Arm Service split is not yet available for financial year 2007-08.
[5] Provisional.
Notes:
1. Due to the ongoing validation of data from the JPA System, Army statistics from 1 April 2007 onwards are provisional and subject to review.
2. The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Table 2: Soldier outflow[1] to civilian life from the Regular Army[2] by Arm Service and financial year from 2003

	Financial year				
Arm Service	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07[3]*	*2007-08*
Household Cavalry Regiment	160	140	110	120	n/a
Royal Armoured Corps	730	660	700	660	n/a
Royal Regiment of Artillery	1,140	1,100	960	1,120	n/a
Corps of Royal Engineers	1,230	1,350	1,330	1,180	n/a
Royal Corps of Signals	960	1,010	970	900	n/a
Infantry	4,710	4,600	4,290	4,240	n/a
Army Air Corps	170	240	210	200	n/a
The Royal Logistics Corps	2,260	2,280	2,070	2,230	n/a
Royal Army Medical Corps	230	290	270	250	n/a
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	1,110	1,260	1,220	1,090	n/a
Adjutant-General's Corps	710	690	670	630	n/a
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	20	20	30	20	n/a
Small Arms School Corps	10	0	10	0	n/a
Royal Army Dental Corps	20	40	30	30	n/a
Intelligence Corps	50	80	90	120	n/a
Army Physical Training Corps	20	30	20	30	n/a
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	60	70	70	60	n/a
Corps of Army Music	60	100	80	70	n/a
Total[4]	13,640	13,970	13,120	12,960	[5]13,830

n/a = Not available.
[1] Figures show Soldier outflow to UK Regular Army including recalled reservists on release and outflow to the Home Service Personnel of the Royal Irish Regiment.
[2] UK Regular Army excludes full-time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service Personnel of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.
[3] 2006-07 Arm Service split contains only 11 months' data due to the implementation of the JPA system in March 2007.
[4] Due to the implementation of the JPA system, the Arm Service split is not yet available for financial year 2007-08.
[5] Provisional.
Notes:
1. Due to the ongoing validation of data from the JPA System, Army statistics from 1 April 2007 onwards are provisional and subject to review.
2. The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Table 3: Soldier voluntary outflow[1] from the Regular Army[2] by Arm Service and financial year from 2003

	Financial year				
Arm Service	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07[3]*	*2007-08*
Household Cavalry Regiment	50	40	40	30	n/a
Royal Armoured Corps	250	240	280	220	n/a
Royal Regiment of Artillery	400	420	380	330	n/a
Corps of Royal Engineers	490	630	600	540	n/a
Royal Corps of Signals	380	440	380	450	n/a
Infantry	1,340	1,350	1,410	1,330	n/a
Army Air Corps	60	90	70	60	n/a
The Royal Logistics Corps	670	650	540	580	n/a
Royal Army Medical Corps	80	110	100	90	n/a

Table 3: Soldier voluntary outflow[1] from the Regular Army[2] by Arm Service and financial year from 2003

Arm Service	Financial year 2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07[3r]	2007-08
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	400	450	400	370	n/a
Adjutant-General's Corps	280	320	280	250	n/a
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	10	0	10	0	n/a
Small Arms School Corps	0	0	0	0	n/a
Royal Army Dental Corps	10	20	20	20	n/a
Intelligence Corps	20	40	40	50	n/a
Army Physical Training Corps	10	10	0	10	n/a
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	40	40	30	40	n/a
Corps of Army Music	30	50	40	40	n/a
Total	4,510	4,900	4,630	4,410	n/a

n/a = Not available.

[1] Voluntary outflow (VO) is defined as exits from trained personnel which are generated by the individual before their time expiry.

[2] UK Regular Army excludes full-time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service Personnel of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

[3] 2006-07 Arm Service split contains only 11 months' data due to the implementation of the JPA system in March 2007.

Notes:

1. Exit reasons, including VO, for FY 2007-08 are currently unavailable.
2. The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Future Surface Combatant

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessments have been made of the vulnerability of future frigates to missile strikes; what studies have been undertaken of the relative resilience against such strikes of *(a)* trimaran and *(b)* conventional frigate hull designs for the Future Surface Combatant (FSC); and if he will make a statement on progress in the design of the proposed variants of the FSC. [227065]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Future Surface Combatant (FSC) programme is still in the early stages of concept and the design is not expected to be confirmed until early in the next decade. Some work has been undertaken to assess the merits of using different types of hull form, including trimaran and conventional designs. Studies to assess the vulnerability and resilience to missile strikes of FSC are, however, planned.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been of compensation paid by his Department to Iraqi citizens since 2005. [226851]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since financial year 2005 the Ministry of Defence has paid £6,504,472 in compensation to Iraqi citizens as follows:

Financial year	Total payments (£)
2005-06	653,699
2006-07	573,651
2007-08	2,303,803
1 March 2008 to 10 October 2008	2,973,319

The payment made in 2007-08 includes a £2 million payment made to a 13-year-old boy who was shot in the stomach when a member of HM forces negligently discharged his rifle. He sustained severe neurological and spinal injuries resulting in a multi-faceted disability including paralysis in the legs, loss of sensation, loss of bladder control and impairment of bowel control. He will require care for the rest of his life.

The payment made in the current financial year includes £2.83 million paid to the family of Baha Musa and eight other Iraqi civilians following their detention by British Forces during September 2003.

Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many vehicles of each type were reported *(a)* lost or missing and later recovered and *(b)* lost or missing and not recovered by armed forces in the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [222067]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on vehicles lost and recovered is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Leicestershire

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority-owned non-decent dwellings there were in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* North West Leicestershire in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [227550]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department collects figures on local authority non-decent homes through the published annual business plan statistical appendix. According to the latest returns available, the number of non-decent local authority homes as at 1 April 2007 in North West Leicestershire was 1,239 (27 per cent. of stock). The figure for the East Midlands as a whole was 46,118 (22 per cent. of stock). The regional figure includes non-decent homes in local authorities which had established an arm's length management organisation to manage their homes.

Departmental Information Officers

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press officers her Department has employed in each year since its establishment. [227433]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 14W to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne).

The Department's press officers are listed in The White Book, published by COI, which is available in the Library of the House. The book is updated twice yearly.

Departmental Press

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 580W, on departmental press, if she will break down the budget for each year by *(a)* press and *(b)* communications. [227460]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 580W by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda). And the answer he gave on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 717W to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws).

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small- and medium-sized businesses was paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the agencies for which her Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [226500]

Mr. Khan: Unfortunately this information is not available. The Department for Communities and Local Government measures the proportion of invoices for goods and services which were paid within 30 days but does not separately identify invoices from small and medium-sized businesses.

Deprivation Indicators

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the lower layer super output areas in each parliamentary constituency are. [226209]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question concerning what Lower Layer Super Output Areas there are in each parliamentary constituency. (226209)

The table provides for each of the 569 parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales a listing of the Lower Layer Super Output Areas within them. There are a total of 34,378 Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales, of these 693 are covered by two parliamentary constituencies, and eight within three parliamentary constituencies. These 'split' Lower Layer Super Output Areas are indicated in the table.

A copy of the table has been placed in the Library.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether energy performance certificates may make reference to the performance of *(a)* light bulbs, *(b)* fridge-freezers and *(c)* dishwashers in a property. [226682]

Mr. Iain Wright: The ratings on the EPC provide a measure of the overall energy efficiency of a domestic property and its environmental impact, calculated in accordance with a national methodology that takes into account factors, such as insulation, heating and hot water systems, ventilation and fuels used.

Light bulbs are mentioned in the EPC, where there is a recommendation to install low energy lighting, because lighting is an integral part of the property's structure. Fridge-freezers and dishwashers, which are subject to their own rating system, are not part of the overall calculation of CO_2 emissions and energy use calculations and are, therefore, not referred to in the EPC.

Ethnic Groups: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on the funding by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* local authorities of groups or organisations that form, operate or advertise themselves on the basis of ethnicity. [227360]

Mr. Khan: The Commission on Integration and Cohesion was concerned that groups based on single identities were potentially divisive. However, as both CLG and local Government fund bodies which aim to promote equality of opportunity, we consulted earlier this year on cohesion guidance for funders, looking at how funders could both promote equality of opportunity and cohesion through the conditions they placed on funding. We will be publishing the results of that consultation shortly, along with next steps.

Fire Services: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the revenue costs of the regional project team were in each regional management board area in respect of the FiReControl project in financial year 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [227314]

Mr. Khan: CLG provided funding in 2007-08 in each region to cover the costs of regional project teams, as follows:

	Amount (£)
East Midlands	147,051
East of England	147,051
London	160,413
North East	157,051
North West	157,051
South East	147,051
South West	157,051
West Midlands	147,051
Yorkshire and Humber	157,051

CLG also gave £56,041 to every FRA, excluding LFEPA to fund a project co-ordinator post.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to date has been of the development and implementation of *(a)* the data capture and management toolkit version 1 product and *(b)* the early station end equipment product in respect of the FiReControl project; and if she will make a statement. [227315]

Mr. Khan: £696,856.62 has been paid to EADS Defence and Security Systems Ltd for the development of the data capture and management toolkit version 1. No payment will be made for early station end development, although a capital charge will be payable when a station end is installed.

Housing: Children

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many children were registered as living in *(a)* temporary accommodation, *(b)* non-decent accommodation and *(c)* overcrowded accommodation in each local authority area in each year since 2004. [226459]

Mr. Iain Wright: Figures are available at local authority level for the number of children in temporary accommodation, but not for the numbers living in non-decent homes or in overcrowded accommodation.

Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the numbers of households housed in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The number of dependent children or expected children in these households has been collected since mid 2004. Figures reported by local authorities from 2004-05 onwards (as at the end of March each year) are provided in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

Housing: Low Incomes

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the criteria to be used in the allocation of social housing to people released from prison. [227121]

Mr. Iain Wright: The statutory Allocations Code of Guidance, issued in 2002, does not provide advice on general categories of people released from prison. The guidance does however advise housing authorities that, where sex offenders are allocated accommodation, this should be in the light of considered decisions about managing risk associated with their release from prison into the community involving multi-agency arrangements with the police, probation services, social services, health professionals and other relevant bodies. The code also refers local authorities to earlier guidance issued by the Department in November 1999. This document is available from the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/157737.pdf

The statutory Code of Guidance on Choice Based Lettings, issued this year and placed in the Library on 26 August, offers advice to enable prisoners to access the information necessary to make informed decisions about homes they may wish to bid for on release from prison. This document is available from the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/doc/cblguidance.docl.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures are in place to monitor the average time taken on housing repairs by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations. [225485]

Mr. Iain Wright: For local authorities, the average time taken on urgent housing repairs is monitored through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment framework.

Where appropriate and as part of a risk assessment of overall performance, the data may be used to trigger further investigations of performance by the Audit Commission.

The Housing Corporation's expectations of registered social landlords (RSLs) on responsive repairs are set out in the Regulatory Code. RSLs must develop and manage good quality homes that seek to meet people's needs and preferences now and in the future. The Housing Corporation's guidance on repairs is that RSLs should have a responsive repair service that meets legal and contractual obligations, is efficient and effective and that service standards are published. RSLs will monitor their own performance on repairs which may include the average time taken.

The Housing Corporation collects information on levels of tenant satisfaction with repairs and maintenance, which is then published in the form of performance indicators. Performance on tenant satisfaction is published in Housing Corporation Assessments. The Corporation's field staff will engage with a RSL where it becomes aware that the RSL's tenants are not satisfied and it does not consider that the RSL is taking sufficient steps to address their concerns.

The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 set up the Tenant Services Authority, a new regulator of social housing which will have powers to set standards and monitor performance for the management of social housing, including on maintenance and repairs. The TSA was set up to put tenants at the heart of regulation, and address their concerns with the housing management service. The TSA is likely to consult on standards to cover both registered social landlords and local authority landlords in 2009.

Housing: Stafford

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public funding is available to assist local authorities in Stafford constituency to enable the provision of new affordable housing in the next three years. [225312]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are investing £8 billion over the three years 2008-11 in the provision of affordable housing through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme. Of these funds the West Midlands region is set to receive around £460 million. This compares to expenditure on affordable housing through the Housing Corporation in that region of £280 million over the previous three years.

It is open to registered social landlords, other developers and local authority special purpose vehicles such as arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) to bid to the Housing Corporation for funding. We recently announced our intention to invite local authorities who continue to directly manage their stock to bid on the same terms.

We do not hold information at constituency level.

Local Authorities

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons her Department's local priorities website does not list all local priorities chosen by local authorities, including those not negotiated with central Government. [225453]

Mr. Khan: The local priorities website was launched with the signing of local area agreements (LAAs) on 30 June. The Department is working to make information on the details of local priorities which have been set, though not negotiated with central Government as part of LAAs, also available on the website.

Local Authorities: Cost Effectiveness

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to require information on efficiency savings by local authorities to be included with council tax bills issued by local billing authorities. [225554]

John Healey: I previously announced in February 2008 that, subject to consultation, from 2009 information on waste and better working will be set out with council tax bills, so that local people can see what is happening in their council's search for greater efficiency.

Our proposals are currently out to consultation. The consultation paper 'Inclusion of Efficiency Information with Council Tax Demand Notices' is available at

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/952293.pdf

Local Authorities: Equal Pay

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to assist local authorities to meet requirements for equal pay for men and women; and if she will make a statement. [226135]

John Healey: Central Government have increased the financial flexibility available to local authorities to meet their equal pay obligations and to speed up progress on delivering equal pay. On 26 September, the Government issued £455 million of equal pay capitalisation directions for 34 local authorities. This builds on the £500 million issued to 46 authorities last year, and takes the total approved by Government to more than £1.1 billion. This support will ensure authorities maintain the positive momentum they have established in implementing equal pay settlements.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultations were undertaken with those businesses operating within ports prior to the introduction of business rates for port tenants; what form those consultations took; and how long the consultation period was. [226653]

John Healey: Consultation about removal of the power of the Secretary of State to prescribe rateable values, for ports and other utilities, was undertaken in "Modernising Local Government Finance : A Green Paper" published by DETR in September 2000 and in "Strong Local Leadership - Quality Public Service" a White Paper published by ODPM in December 2001. The Local Government Act 2003 then removed the power to prescribe a formula for rating statutory ports.

The port operators were advised by letter of the review of ports and its background in May 2006. Since then there have been detailed discussions to establish the facts, on a case by case basis, with interested parties both among port operators and port tenants and the time taken has varied, dependent on the complexity of each.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is considering to mitigate the financial effects upon traders of the recent change in rating methodology for docks and harbours. [227548]

John Healey: The Department has received representations over the rating of businesses within the ports, and the Government are looking closely at the matter.

Pensioners: Low Incomes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* children were living in income-deprived households in each parliamentary constituency calculated using the Indices of Deprivation 2007. [226208]

John Healey: Tables have been deposited in the Library setting out the numbers and percentages of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* children living in income-deprived households in each parliamentary constituency in England. The data is based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index and Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, both of which form part of the Indices of Deprivation 2007.

Regeneration: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 630W, on regeneration: Canvey Island, whether the absence of an additional access road for Canvey Island constituted one of the impediments. [225823]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are aware that an additional access road for Canvey Island is an important local issue. We understand that discussions are underway among the relevant planning and transport authorities and other partners in the south Essex Thames Gateway to identify possible solutions. Any solutions which will require funding from Government will need to be considered by the region when it is preparing its advice to Government on the Regional Funding Allocations.

Regional Planning and Development

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will *(a)* set a deadline for the formal submission of Castle Point Borough Council's Local Development Scheme and (ii) set out what process of public consultation will be undertaken for the scheme; and if she will make a statement. [226832]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State's policy is to consider reviews of local development schemes in response to annual monitoring reports, against their reported timetable for the year and exceptionally to consider any review prepared by the local authority during the year. I understand Castle Point borough council intend to bring forward a review in 2009.

There is no requirement for public consultation on a local development scheme. This is for the local planning authority to consider.

Regional Planning and Development: Kent

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration was given to including *(a)* the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway and *(b)* the Dolphin Barge Museum in the vision framework set out in her Department's Green Cluster Study for Milton Creek; and if she will make a statement. [227431]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Green Cluster Study for Milton Creek was commissioned via Greening the Gateway Kent and Medway to provide a brief strategic statement of the opportunities for creating green space north of Sittingbourne town centre, along Milton Creek to the Swale. It has no planning status, and is purely intended to set out an overall vision.

The study does include Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway. Both the Light Railway and the Dolphin Barge Museum are acknowledged in contributing to the development of the vision. However, the purpose of the publication is not to describe in detail individual schemes or stakeholders, but to present a broad assessment of opportunities in the area.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent reports she has received on local development and regeneration plans of Swale Borough Council; and what her policy is on the future development of *(a)* the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway and *(b)* the Sittingbourne Dolphin Barge Museum. [227432]

Mr. Iain Wright: The overall strategy for the physical regeneration of Swale is set out in the Swale borough local plan, adopted in 2008. Following adoption of the local plan, the borough council has commissioned a master plan for Sittingbourne town centre, and this is currently under way.

Communities and Local Government is supporting the regeneration of Sittingbourne through an indicative allocation of Thames Gateway funding of £10.9 million, of which £7.5 million will contribute to the construction of Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road; £2 million will contribute to the development of Sittingbourne Learning Campus, and the balance will fund the completion of the master plan and the development of proposals for increasing capacity at junction 5 of the M2.

The Government do not have any policy on the future development of the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway or the Sittingbourne Dolphin Barge Museum because these are matters for the local authority.

Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial commitments have been made by her Department towards the development of the Thames Gateway. [226259]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's plans were set out in "The Thames Gateway Delivery Plan" published in November 2007.

Repossession Orders

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Council of Mortgage Lenders on housing repossessions; and if she will make a statement. [227636]

Mr. Iain Wright: Government are working closely with a range of stakeholders—including the Council of Mortgage Lenders—to help vulnerable households facing repossession remain in their homes wherever possible.

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been purchased under the right to buy scheme in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1997 expressed in (i) absolute terms, (ii) per 1000 population and (iii) per 1,000 households. [227307]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of local authority right to buy sales in England is shown in the following table. The table shows the number of sales, the number of sales per 1,000 population, and the number of sales per 1,000 households, in urban and rural areas.

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Number of local authority right to buy sales											
Predominantly urban	28,510	28,850	39,000	39,550	39,520	48,800	55,630	40,990	21,460	13,620	9,950
Significant rural	4,480	4,170	5,680	5,130	5,160	5,980	5,430	3,720	2,000	1,240	840
Predominantly rural	8,350	7,250	9,580	7,710	7,290	8,620	8,510	5,270	3,200	2,040	1,170
Total	41,330	40,270	54,250	52,380	51,970	63,390	69,580	49,980	26,650	16,900	11,960
Number of local authority right to buy sales per 1,000 population											
Predominantly urban	0.92	0.93	1.26	1.27	1.25	1.55	1.76	1.29	0.67	0.42	0.31
Significant rural	0.70	0.65	0.89	0.80	0.80	0.92	0.83	0.57	0.30	0.19	0.12
Predominantly rural	0.74	0.64	0.84	0.67	0.63	0.74	0.73	0.45	0.27	0.17	0.10
Total	0.83	0.83	1.11	1.07	1.05	1.28	1.40	1.00	0.53	0.33	0.23
Number of local authority right to buy sales per 1,000 households											
Predominantly urban	2.26	2.28	3.06	3.08	3.03	3.70	4.19	3.07	1.59	1.00	0.72
Significant rural	1.73	1.60	2.17	1.94	1.94	2.22	2.00	1.36	0.72	0.44	0.29
Predominantly rural	1.81	1.56	2.04	1.62	1.52	1.78	1.73	1.06	0.63	0.40	0.23
Total	2.09	2.02	2.71	2.59	2.53	3.06	3.33	2.37	1.25	0.79	0.55

Smoke Alarms

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which fire and rescue services provide smoke alarms free of charge to domestic dwellings. [227434]

Mr. Khan: In 2004, Communities and Local Government invested £25 million pump priming capital over four years in the Home Fire Risk Check initiative. This money enabled all fire and rescue services to embed a programme of home visits where they would provide tailored fire safety advice to households. As part of a home visit, all fire and rescue services would, if necessary, install smoke alarms to vulnerable households free of charge.

This funding resulted in fire and rescue services in England installing over 2.4 million smoke alarms. Many fire and rescue authorities may also have invested in and installed further smoke alarms outside of and even before this grant.

Social Services: Children

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account she has taken of concerns raised by local authorities about the ability of the new Children's Social Services formula, used in the 2008-11 local government funding settlement, to assess accurately the complex needs of children in urban areas. [227235]

John Healey: The children's formula is based on extensive research by experienced independent researchers and used the 2003 Children in Need survey, which contains data on children's social service clients in almost every social service authority in England. It is calculated using up to date indicators of need and is based on research from within 141 local authorities. The new formula therefore better reflects the current patterns of relative need and the cost drivers for children's social services than the old formula it replaces.

London councils have argued that the formula is systematically biased against councils with the highest needs. However, the consideration of so-called 'unmet

need' was part of the terms of reference of the research project, and was examined as thoroughly as possible by the researchers. They did not consider this issue impacted sufficiently seriously on the robustness of the formula to cast doubt on its overall reliability.

Society of Local Authority Chief Executives

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding the Audit Commission provided for the *(a)* Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and *(b)* Senior Managers Foundation Imprint magazine in 2007-08. [226125]

John Healey: The Audit Commission provides no funding to the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers. During 2007-08, the Audit Commission provided £4,000.00 in sponsorship to the Solace Foundation Imprint magazine.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council: Theatre

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British *(a)* plays and *(b)* concerts were performed overseas by British performers under the auspices of the British Council in each year since 1998. [226672]

Caroline Flint: The British Council does not hold detailed records on individual plays and concerts performed overseas and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost. The British Council currently has three key programme areas: intercultural dialogue, climate change, and supporting the UK's creative and knowledge economy, which such performances support.

Cuba: Sanctions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will have discussions with the US Administration on the application of trade sanctions to Cuba. [225012]

Bill Rammell: The UK regularly discusses its policy on issues of mutual concern, including Cuba, with the US. We also re-iterate our opposition to the US embargo on Cuba publicly through our yearly vote at the UN General Assembly. The last vote took place on 30 October 2007.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Borders: Vehicles

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many private cars were searched by officers of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs or the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each month since October 2007 when crossing *(a)* from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland and *(b)* from the Republic of Ireland to Northern Ireland. [227359]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of this letter will be placed in the Library of the House and the *Official Report*.

Matters relating to officers of HMRC should be directed to HM Treasury.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which projects his Department *(a)* funds and *(b)* provides other assistance to (i) directly and (ii) indirectly in Afghanistan; how much funding his Department is providing for such projects; and with which organisations his Department works on these projects. [225939]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have placed a list in the Library of all the bilateral projects that the Department for International Development (DFID) funded in Afghanistan in 2007-08. The DFID imputed share of multilateral Official Development Assistance in Afghanistan in 2006-07 (the latest year for which we have data) was £41.7 million.

DFID works with a range of organisations to deliver its programme of aid in Afghanistan, including multilateral organisations, civil society organisations, the government of Afghanistan, other bilateral donors and the private sector.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government is contributing financially to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy in 2008-09; and what involvement the Government has in the formation and implementation of the strategy. [225941]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The production of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), which was published in July 2008, was led by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) in consultation with donors, including the Department for International Development (DFID). All of DFID's expenditure is in line with the ANDS. We expect to spend £123 million in 2008-09. DFID alongside other donors helped finance the production of the strategy. DFID is also helping support the GoIRA to put in place effective arrangements for overall management of the ANDS as well as the development of new national programmes in key sectors.

Chad: Security

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of the security situation in eastern Chad on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to refugees in the region. [225873]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The rise of banditry, against a background of total impunity, is cited by humanitarian actors as the current main direct threat to humanitarian

action. The key impacts are a reduction in access to affected populations by humanitarian agencies, and the disruption of service provision where access is still possible. Since the beginning of the year, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that there have been 120 incidents against humanitarian agencies.

The World Food Programme (WFP) ration to 240,000 refugees was cut by 20 per cent. earlier in the year, partly as a result of increasing insecurity. After a serious security incident in May, Save the Children (UK) was compelled to pull out from the central axes (Abeche-Adre). While this resulted in the disruption of health service provision to 30,000 refugees in Breidjing camp, other agencies have since stepped in to fill the gap.

Service provision to internally displaced people (IDPs) has also been affected by insecurity. Most recently, attacks on relief workers in the Abeche area have resulted in three NGOs reducing staff presence or temporarily suspending programmes. This has compromised health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions targeting 40,000 IDPs.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the government of Chad on action against perpetrators of criminal acts which impede the delivery of humanitarian aid in eastern Chad. [226081]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: According to the UN, the last year has seen an increase in the level of criminality in eastern Chad compared to 2007. There has also been a shift in the target of the criminality. Increasingly, it is the humanitarian workers that are the focus of violent crime and banditry, including attacks on compounds and carjackings.

The UK Government have not made any direct representations to the Government of Chad over this issue. However, the UK Government supported UNSCR 1778 which established MINURCAT, the UN police training and advisory mission, and authorised the deployment of an EU force (EUFOR), the humanitarian protection force in Chad and Central African Republic (CAR). The objective of this interlinked UN and EU mission is to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. MINURCAT is specifically mandated to maintain law and order in refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites through the training of Chadian gendarmes, and to contribute to tackling the prevailing impunity by promotion of human rights and rule of law.

Humanitarian Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget was spent on humanitarian aid in each of the last five years. [227492]

Mr. Michael Foster: The proportion of Department for International Development (DFID) programme expenditure spent on humanitarian aid in each of the last five years is shown in the following table and split by bilateral and imputed multilateral expenditure:

Table 1: Proportion of DFID programme expenditure spent on humanitarian aid since 2003-04

Percentage

	Proportion of DFID bilateral programme expenditure spent on humanitarian aid	*Proportion of DFID imputed multilateral expenditure spent on humanitarian aid*
2003-04	11.46	8.51
2004-05	11.15	6.63
2005-06	13.91	12.27
2006-07	11.01	5.25
2007-08	10.63	n/a

Imputed multilateral expenditure is assessed from the figures reported by the multilateral organisations to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). 2007-08 will not therefore be available until 2009.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the stability of the Kosovo government. [226777]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Different Departments within the UK Government are working together to improve stability in Kosovo. We are funding work to help establish effective Rule of Law, prevent renewed conflict and to establish an effective and transparent security sector. We have allocated £4.15 million from the joint Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO)/Department for International Development (DFID)/Ministry of Defence (MoD) Conflict Prevention Pool for this work in 2008-09. To strengthen Kosovo's key institutions, the UK is also helping the Kosovo government review their structures and improve their effectiveness. These programmes are in addition to the UK's contribution to stability in Kosovo through the NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR), the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the EU's largest ever Rule of Law mission, EULEX, and the office of the EU Special Representative and International Civilian Representative in Kosovo.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent support the Government has given to the government of Kosovo for economic growth. [226778]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK is playing an active role in supporting international efforts to build economic growth in Kosovo, and thereby reduce poverty and unemployment. The Department for International Development (DFID) tabled a paper on key actions to support economic growth at the recent Kosovo Donors' conference (the paper is available online at: http://www.seerecon.org/kdc/gae.pdf). DFID has been instrumental in ensuring that future World Bank and European Commission (EC) assistance to Kosovo will be focused on improving the prospects of economic growth. One result of this is the World Bank's current work to design a US $90 million Multi-donor Trust Fund for Sustainable Employment. The EC has indicated it will contribute to this.

In addition to this work, DFID is funding programmes in the Rule of Law sector which will contribute to giving investors greater confidence of a return on their investments. DFID is also supporting Kosovo's EU pre-accession process through a project to help the Government of Kosovo align its standards with those of the EU in a range of areas, including agriculture and food safety. This is important if Kosovo secures access for its products to the EU market.

Overseas Aid: Education

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of UK aid was allocated to education projects in the most recent resource allocation round; what proportion of these projects are located in states affected by significant conflict; and if he will make a statement. [227436]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The latest comprehensive spending review committed DFID to increasing its expenditure through multilateral and bilateral channels on education to £1 billion a year by 2010-11. This represents 12 per cent. of the Department of International Development's (DFID) planned total departmental spending in 2010-11.

Data are not held centrally on DFID's future spending allocation for education in states affected by conflict. Nevertheless, DFID is committed to increased support for fragile states (which include most of those significantly affected by conflict). Support to education in these countries is therefore expected to rise over the coming years.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government plans to spend on basic services for the population in the Nuba Mountains following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan; and how much of this has been spent to date. [225882]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 9 January 2005, the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated approximately £26.7 million to improve basic services in North Sudan (which includes the Nuba Mountains). Of the £26.1 million allocated through the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), all was disbursed. Based on figures available at 31 December 2007, approximately 18 per cent. of the total MDTF funding in the north was spent in South Kordofan.

In addition, since the inception of the Common Humanitarian Fund in 2006, DFID has provided £7.4 million ($13 million) for humanitarian and early recovery activities in Southern Kordofan.

Funding for South Kordofan includes the Nuba Mountains and other impoverished areas. Funding for the contested and politically sensitive area of Abyei is separate to this.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many business improvement districts have been established in each region. [225394]

John Healey: I am the Minister responsible for policy on business improvement districts and have been asked to reply.

Number of established bids in each region

Region	*Number of bids*
London	17
South East	7
South West	8
Eastern	3
East Midlands	6
West Midlands	9
North East	2
North West	10
Yorkshire and Humberside	1
Total bids	63

Consumer Focus: Manpower

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff are expected to be employed as part of Consumer Focus Wales. [224831]

Mr. McFadden: The total number of staff who will be based at the Consumer Focus Wales office is 35.

Environment Agency: Finance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding has been provided to the Environment Agency by Yorkshire Forward in each of the last five years; and what the purposes of the funding were. [223791]

Mr. McFadden: The following payments have been made by Yorkshire Forward to the Environment Agency for the last five years (April 2003 to March 2008). Payments greater than £10,000 have been itemised.

	Payment (£)	*Purpose*
2003-04	14,691.04	Other (seven invoices)
2004-05	6,722.20	Other (six invoices)
2005-06	2,711,575.77	—
Comprising:		
	2,680,000.00	One-off grant to fund capital works comprising part of the Humber Estuary Shoreline Management Plan.

	Payment (£)	*Purpose*
	15,000.00	Grant to fund an Opportunity Plan conducted by Scott Wilson and commissioned by the Strategic Partnership for the River Ouse and its tributaries, to identify potential locations for environmental enhancement projects, focusing on regeneration of urban waterfronts, better access to leisure activities, land management to increase wildlife, renewable energy through alternative fuel crops, and improve awareness and knowledge of river systems, (see £10,000 additional payment in 2006-07).
	12,728.77	Data evidence and modelling techniques—SCPnet
	3,847.00	Other (two invoices)
2006-07	23,511.73	—
Comprising:		
	10,000.00	Grant re Ouse Enhancement Opportunity Plan (£15,000 first payment in 2005-06).
	13,511.73	Other (seven invoices)
2007-08	19,146.85	—
Comprising:		
	18,003.35	Data evidence and modelling techniques—SCPnet
	1,143.50	Other (one invoice)

SCPnet was developed during the 2005-06 financial in order to provide a facility for the RDAs nationally to call on research data in order to inform debate and preparation of strategies for the regions. The process involved the 'appointment' of a champion to operate as co-ordinator for the project. Data collection, collation and presentation, continue with updates for this data source and to organise RDA lead meetings to steer the process for that year and future periods. The system also incorporates (through observatories), the collation of data and development of modelling tools to inform policy development. There are elements of support costs for meetings travel and subsistence and training on the REEIO and REAP models.

The process has been approved for continuation to date with annual contributions by each of the RDAs.

Fisheries: Compensation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been paid out so far under the Icelandic Fishermen's Compensation Scheme; and to how many recipients. [225629]

Mr. McFadden: The Department paid out just under £43 million under the scheme launched in October 2000, to 4,400 successful claimants. In addition, around £14 million was paid out to almost 9,000 claimants under the previous ex-gratia scheme that operated between 1993 and 1995.

Freight: Liquidation

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many haulage businesses went into administration or liquidation in each region of England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [227071]

Mr. McFadden: The information held by the Insolvency Service on corporate liquidations and administrations is not sufficiently detailed to identify those businesses which operated within the haulage industry, on a regional basis.

While official statistics concerning compulsory liquidations are sourced from the Insolvency Service, those for voluntary liquidations and administrations are sourced from Companies House. There have been changes over recent years to the extent and type of sectoral and regional information collected and analysed. It is not possible to combine the various data sets available to provide a comprehensive answer to the question.

INTERREG Programme

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 627-28W, on the INTERREG programme, whether any bodies have sought approval to participate in a grouping. [225563]

Mr. McFadden: To date, no UK bodies have sought the approval of the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to participate in a European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation.

Minimum Wage: Yorkshire

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many workers in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Yorkshire received wages at the national minimum rate in each year since 2000, broken down by sex. [226378]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many workers in (a) Leeds and (b) Yorkshire received wages at the national minimum rate in each year since 2000, broken down by sex. (226378)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available from ONS. However, estimates for the number of all employee jobs paid below the national wage are available by Government Office Region. This is the lowest geographical breakdown.

I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage for Yorkshire and The Humber for all employees for each year since 2000.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Number of employee jobs paid below the national minimum wage in Yorkshire and the Humber

	Number of jobs (thousand)
2000	[1]
2001	[1]
2002	30
2003	[1]
2004	24
2005	28
2006	23
2007	24

[1] Sample size too small for reliable estimate

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the effect that the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency prize draw promotion for customers renewing their vehicle excise licence online will have on the number of people choosing to renew their vehicle excise licence at a post office. [225395]

Mr. McFadden: Responsibility for the issue and renewal of motor vehicle excise licences, including the channels available to do so, rests with DVLA. The arrangements in place for renewal of licences at post offices are a contractual matter between DVLA and Post Office Ltd. These provide for this facility to be available at around 4,600 nationally and there has been no reduction in that number since online and telephone renewal was introduced.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to encourage the renewal of vehicle excise licences through post offices; and if he will make a statement. [225396]

Mr. McFadden: The DVLA offers a number of methods of renewing vehicle licences. Renewal at a post office remains an important option.

I understand from Post Office Ltd. that 28,334,825 licence renewals took place at a post office branch during the period April 2007 to March 2008.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department provides for UK car, van and truck manufacturing; what account his Department has taken of *(a)* the current economic climate and *(b)* EU proposals for restrictions on automotive emissions in providing such support; and if he will make a statement. [227018]

Ian Pearson: BERR continues to work closely with the automotive manufacturing industry on a range of key issues for the sector and has made clear it stands ready to assist the industry on new issues where appropriate, especially in the current economic climate. Work is also in train under the framework of the Manufacturing Strategy to ensure that British manufacturing has the right long-term framework of support. An example of support for the automotive sector announced in the recent Manufacturing Strategy is a major new pilot programme for low carbon cars, along with £20 million initially for the public procurement of innovative low carbon and zero emission vans. The recent allocation of £6.2 million Selective Finance for Industry in England (SFIE) to Nissan is another example of support available from Government.

The Government facilitated industry-led New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team (NAIGT) announced by BERR in April 2008 is looking at how to address the two key strategic challenges of maintaining a competitive edge in the face of low-cost competition and ensuring that the UK benefits from the transition to advanced low-carbon technologies. The results of the NAIGT review, due to report to BERR by the end March 2009, will help industry and Government focus their efforts to help improve the competitiveness of the sector in the coming years.

The European Commission's proposals to establish EU-wide mandatory targets for new car carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions are just one of a range of regulations directly affecting the automotive sector. Government works closely with industry, through initiatives such as the BERR-led Vehicle Industry Policy and European Regulation (VIPER) group, to ensure industry is engaged in the regulatory process at the earliest opportunity and that regulations are proportionate, practicable and appropriate. The CO_2 from cars dossier is widely considered to be the most significant ever for the EU automotive industry. Negotiations continue in Europe and the UK Government are working closely with the European Commission, other member states and industry to secure a Regulation which combines ambitious, but realistic, targets with sufficient flexibility to allow for the diversity of the UK and European automotive sector.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Manpower

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff were employed by *(a)* the Welsh Consumer Council, *(b)* Postwatch Wales and *(c)* Energywatch Wales in each of the last five years. [224830]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows.

	Number of staff		
	Welsh Consumer Council	*Postwatch Wales*	*Energywatch Wales*
2007-08	10	4	12-15
2006-07	14	4	12-15
2005-06	15	4	12-15
2004-05	13	5	12-15
2003-04	17	5	12-15

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions Post Office Ltd. has responded to public opposition by reversing a decision to close a post office branch as part of the Network Change Programme; and what percentage of branches considered for closure under the programme this figure represents. [225822]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices have been closed in villages and towns with a population smaller then 10,000 inhabitants in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [227304]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Disabled

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to what extent Post Office Ltd. is required to ensure that post offices providing services to members of the public are compliant with laws relating to disabled access. [225314]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. acknowledges the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. Post Office Ltd. itself is responsible for compliance with the Act in respect of access for disabled people to its services at Crown offices, and sub-postmasters and franchisees are similarly responsible for promoting disabled access to the services they provide.

Post Office Ltd. is committed to the needs of all disabled customers whether they visit Crown offices or franchised offices and it is therefore engaged in a continuing process of working with its sub-postmasters to maximise the accessibility of its services to disabled customers and support compliance with the Act.

For example, as part of the Network Change Programme, where a post office branch has been selected for closure, Post Office Ltd. has checked the accessibility of alternative local branches including the accessibility of public transport for disabled people. Post Office Ltd. has also set up a fund that contributes towards improvements in sub-postmasters' premises that improve access for disabled people. Post Office Ltd. has also trialled using the Direct Enquiries website to provide information to disabled people on the accessibility of branches.

Post Offices: Military Bases

Mr. Walter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices situated within the secure areas of military establishments have been closed or are scheduled for closure as part of the Post Office Network Change programme; and if he will list their locations. [227358]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postwatch: Publications

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the hardback book "Post, Present and Future", produced by Postwatch in September 2008, cost to produce and distribute. [225980]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The costs of producing and distributing the hardback report, "Post, present and future", recently published by Postwatch, are as follows:

Production costs: £29,010

Distribution costs: £2,483

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what costs were incurred in the *(a)* production and *(b)* distribution by post of the Postwatch publication, "Post, Present and Future". [226124]

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost was of *(a)* producing and *(b)* distributing the hardback report "Past, Present and Future" recently published by Postwatch. [225548]

Mr. McFadden: The costs of producing and distributing the report, "Post, present and future", recently published by Postwatch are as follows:

Production costs: £29,010

Distribution costs: £2,483

Recruitment: Complaints

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate has received regarding the advertising of non-existent jobs in the last 12 months; and how many of these complaints have been upheld. [225348]

Mr. McFadden: Between 1 October 2007 and 30 September 2008, the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate received 30 complaints regarding the potential breach of the regulation regarding the advertisement of non-existent jobs (regulation 27 of the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003). All 30 complaints were investigated and warnings were issued to 11 companies who were found to be in breach of the Regulations.

Recruitment: Fraud

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many companies have been found to be advertising non-existent jobs in each of the last 10 years. [225349]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold such information.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) acts to resolve complaints about advertisements in UK media, including television, radio, press, posters, direct marketing and some online advertising. The ASA publishes details of all formally resolved adjudications on its website. This database can be accessed at:

http://www.asa.org.uk/asa/adjudications/public/

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what powers the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate has to prevent recruitment companies from placing advertisements for non-existent jobs. [225549]

Mr. McFadden: The Employment Agency Standards (EAS) Inspectorate investigates all complaints received about recruitment companies that suggest any breach of employment agency legislation. This includes the regulations governing advertisements, where agencies cannot advertise specific vacancies unless they have the authority of the employer concerned in respect of that position.

Any breach of the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Business Regulations 2003 is a criminal offence and agencies can be prosecuted in the magistrate's court. In addition, the EAS has powers to seek to prohibit individuals from being involved in the running of an agency for up to 10 years.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to prevent the publication in print or via the internet of bogus notices from recruitment agencies and other organisations advertising non-existent jobs. [225550]

Mr. McFadden: Regulation 27 of the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Business Regulations 2003 specifies that agencies cannot advertise specific vacancies in print or on the internet unless they have the authority of the employer concerned. The Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate investigates any complaints received. Any breach of regulations is a criminal offence which can be prosecuted in magistrates court.

In addition, misleading advertisements made by both the recruitment agencies and other organisations about employment vacancies may be prohibited under the Business Protection from Misleading Marketing Regulations 2008, which is enforced by Trading Standards and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

More generally, all employers placing vacancies with Jobcentre Plus are required to provide specified information (including contact details) to help reduce the likelihood of bogus employers advertising vacancies and to safeguard jobseekers. Jobcentre Plus has a robust Employer Complaints process through which jobseekers can report any issues around inappropriate vacancies or employer activities. If Jobcentre Plus receives a complaint from a customer about an employer who is advertising fictitious vacancies it will be investigated. If the investigation concludes the employer is advertising bogus vacancies, they will be removed from their systems immediately and if appropriate, access to Jobcentre Plus services may be withdrawn to the employer.

Additionally, Jobcentre Plus has put further measures in place to ensure that recruitment agencies only advertise genuine vacancies. Most importantly, before vacancies are accepted Jobcentre Plus requires them to sign a service level agreement (SLA) with Jobcentre Plus agreeing to the terms for using their services. Jobcentre Plus takes these conditions very seriously and will investigate any complaints that individual agencies are not complying with the terms of the SLA. This ultimately could lead to Jobcentre Plus terminating service with a recruitment agency in breach of their agreement.

Small Businesses: Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* evaluated on attitudes of small and medium-sized enterprises to regional development agencies. [223820]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has conducted the following research into regional development agencies (RDAs), which included attitudes of small and medium-sized enterprises to RDAs.

In 2006-07, the National Audit Office carried out independent performance assessments (IPAs) of all the RDAs (except for London which had been covered in a previous Audit Commission review). This is available on the NAO website:

http://www.nao.org.uk/guidance/rdas.htm

In 2003, BERR published the results of regional surveys of stakeholders' perception of the RDAs. The survey was not directed specifically at small and medium sized enterprises, but included the Small Business Service (SBS), Business Links (BL), voluntary sector, businesses, chambers of commerce (LCC).The surveys were commissioned from MORI Social Research Institute.

TICC: Redundancy

Mr. Betts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 292W, on TICC: redundancy, how much was paid in compensation on a non-statutory basis; and under what authority. [226615]

Mr. McFadden: Nil. Only payments guaranteed by statute are payable from the National Insurance Fund to employees on the insolvency of an employer.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of persistently selling alcohol to children under section 147A of the Licensing Act 2003. [226025]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Section 147A of the Licensing Act 2003, as amended by section 23 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 came into force on 6 April 2007.

As a result, complete data for this offence will be available for 2008 and beyond. Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009. Data in relation to individuals charged with offences are not held centrally.

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the increase in the number of scientific procedures on animals at commercial establishments in Scotland from approximately 35,000 in 2006 to approximately 70,000 in 2007. [225097]

Meg Hillier: The apparent increase in the number of scientific procedures on animals at commercial establishments in Scotland in 2007 is principally explained by a change in the way in which the figures were calculated. Using the revised, more accurate methodology, the corresponding figures for 2006 and 2007 were, 67,776 and 70,296, respectively. The increase of 3.7 per cent. arises from a normal variation in the level of business activity.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Yorkshire and the Humber

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* under the age of 18 years and *(b)* aged 18 years and over were served with anti-social behaviour orders in (i) Leeds and (ii) Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [226384]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the number of Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) issued is not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

The latest available data for the West Yorkshire CJS area are to 31 December 2006 and are shown in the following table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts in the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice System area, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by age group[1], 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2006

West Yorkshire	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
10-17	11	60	156	115	81	423
18+	3	37	148	143	136	467
Age unknown[1]	—	—	1	2	—	3
Total	14	97	305	260	217	893

[1] Where age not reported to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Notes:

1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Computers: Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when sections 35 to 38 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 relating to computer misuse are expected to be brought into effect; and if she will make a statement. [226020]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Sections 35 to 38 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 were commenced on 10 October 2008 along with Part 2 of the Serious Crime Act 2007.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to extend the application of serious crime prevention orders to offences under the Computer Misuse Act 1990; and if she will make a statement. [226021]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are currently preparing a consultation document to enable a full public consultation on this matter. It is expected that this consultation will begin in November and run for 12 weeks. The outcome of the consultation will determine whether the application of serious crime prevention orders is extended to include offences under the Computer Misuse Act.

Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the extent and nature of gang-related criminal activity; and if she will make a statement. [226023]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There is no single definition of a 'gang' and so it is difficult to assess the extent and nature of gang activity.

However, the Tackling Gangs Action Programme (September 2007 to March 2008) was set up to tackle gangs who use serious violence and firearms as a central part of their activities. The focus was in the four cities with the highest number of firearms homicides: London, Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool.

As part of this work, police forces in these cities identified 774 individuals, of whom 655 had on average 11 convictions each, of which the majority were for public order, harassment, drugs, violence and acquisitive offences.

Crime: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent evaluation has taken place of the efficacy of the prolific and priority offenders programme in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire; and if she will make a statement. [226066]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has not commissioned a separate evaluation of the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme in Peterborough or Cambridgeshire. A report on the national evaluation of programme was published in February 2007 as Home Office Online report 08/07. This showed that those offenders first selected as Prolific and other Priority

Offenders in September and October 2004 had a reduction of 62 per cent. in their overall level of convictions over their first 17 months on the programme. These findings are very positive, although we cannot necessarily attribute them solely to the programme because we do not know what would have happened had it not been introduced.

A copy of the full evaluation report is available on the Home Office and crime reduction websites

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/onlinepubs1.html

www.crimereduction.gov.uk/ppo/ppominisite01.htm.

Crime: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding was allocated to the prolific and priority offenders programme in Peterborough City Council area in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [226065]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Prolific and other Priority Offender programme was launched in 2004 to tackle those offenders in every area of England and Wales who commit most crime or whose offending causes most damage to their local communities. The programme involves effective partnership working between agencies. It does not receive direct, dedicated funding from the Government. The costs of the programme are met locally.

Crime: Statistics

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to collect statistics on the number of recorded offences that are investigated by the police; and if she will make a statement. [224623]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are no plans to collect this information centrally.

Crimes Against Humanity

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people suspected of *(a)* war crimes, *(b)* crimes against humanity and *(c)* genocide are estimated to be present in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [224628]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not collate data on the total numbers in the UK who are suspected of these crimes. Certain applicants to the UK Border Agency are screened for involvement in war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. Figures on the numbers considered by the War Crimes Team are provided in response to question 224629, *Official Report*, column 1072W, although these are based only on applicants to UKBA and are not directly indicative of the numbers of suspects estimated to be present in the UK.

Criminal Records

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to ensure that unproven allegations against an individual where no charge has been made or conviction secured are not registered on the Criminal Records Bureau's database. [226559]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) only operates a central database in order to record transactions that occur during the disclosure process, where an applicant's personal data, provided on an application form, are compared against information held by the police, the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Enhanced disclosures also contain relevant non-conviction information provided by local police forces. Non-conviction information of this sort is referred to as "approved information" and is released under Section 113B (4) of Part V of the Police Act 1997, which states that:

"Before issuing an enhanced criminal record certificate the Secretary of State shall request the chief officer of every relevant police force to provide any information which, in the chief officer's opinion (a) might be relevant for the purpose described in the statement under subsection (2) (the positions eligible for Enhanced Disclosure) and (b) ought to be included in the certificate".

Therefore, the police have a duty to disclose information which they believe may be relevant and should be disclosed.

The chief officer of each police force is Data Controller, under the Data Protection Act 1998, of all information placed by that force on the PNC or retained in local force records. Therefore, only the chief officer of any given force or his nominee has the power to amend or delete the approved information relating to an applicant and neither the CRB nor the Home Office has any influence over such decisions.

The CRB does operate a disputes process, which enables an individual to challenge the accuracy and relevancy of any information shown on their Disclosure.

Criminal Records Bureau: Standards

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people contested details held on record by the Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last five years. [225388]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) do not hold criminal records but do release information held on police records and other data sources.

The total number of disclosures where the details released by the CRB were contested by the applicant in the last five years is detailed in the following table. These are referred to within the disclosure process as disputes and the CRB has procedures in place to allow an applicant to dispute the information provided.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total number of disputes	1,739	2,265	2,675	3,077	4,931
Total number of disclosures issued	2,284,688	2,430,937	2,770,265	3,277,957	3,323,251

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the cost-effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of her Department. [226525]

Mr. Woolas: All Home Office advertising media buying is placed via the Central Office of Information (COI). Aggregation of government expenditure ensures that media bought via COI is cost-effective and delivers value for money. The prices that Government pay for media spend are benchmarked against those of private sector advertisers by independent media auditors and this demonstrates significant savings for the taxpayer.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* dining, *(b)* cultural and sporting and *(c)* hospitality events (i) Ministers in her Department, (ii) officials in the UK Border Agency and its predecessors and (iii) officials in the Identity and Passport Service and its predecessors have attended which were funded by (A) Government and (B) private sector companies with contracts to work for her Department in each of the last five years. [223843]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were deported from the UK in each of the last 30 years. [226548]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of persons removed, including voluntary departures, from the UK in each of the last 30 years.

Further National Statistics on removals from the UK are available from the Library of the House and Table 6.1 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007 bulletin

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf.

Removals and voluntary departures[1] from the United Kingdom, 1978 to 2007[2]

	Asylum cases, principal[3]	*Asylum cases, dependants[4]*	*Asylum cases, total*	*Non-asylum cases*	*All removals and voluntary departures*
1978	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15,950
1979	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20,320
1980	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18,950
1981	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14,810
1982	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13,730
1983	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15,355
1984	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18,915
1985	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19,665
1986	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25,070
1987	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20,540
1988	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22,915
1989	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27,445
1990	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23,460
1991	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24,070
1992	1,350	n/a	n/a	19,820	21,160
1993	1,820	n/a	n/a	21,000	22,820
1994	2,220	n/a	n/a	20,210	22,430
1995	3,170	n/a	n/a	21,060	24,230
1996	4,820	n/a	n/a	21,840	26,660
1997	7,165	n/a	n/a	23,985	31,150
1998	6,990	n/a	n/a	27,930	34,920
1999	[5]7,665	n/a	n/a	30,115	37,780
2000	[5]8,980	n/a	n/a	37,665	46,645
2001	[5]9,285	1,495	10,780	39,850	50,625
2002	10,740	3,170	13,910	54,720	68,630
2003	13,005	4,890	17,895	46,495	64,390
2004	12,595	2,315	14,915	46,245	61,160
2005	13,730	1,955	15,685	42,530	58,215
2006	16,330	1,950	18,280	45,585	63,865
2007[6]	12,705	1,000	13,705	49,660	63,365

n/a = not available

[1] Prior to 1989 figures exclude EC (European Commission) nationals refused entry at port and subsequently removed. Since 1994 figures include persons removed from juxtaposed controls. Since 1999 figures include persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. Since 2005 figures include persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. Since October 2006 figures include persons leaving under Facilitated Return Schemes.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[3] Persons who had sought asylum as some stage, excluding dependants.

[4] Data on dependants removed are not available before April 2001.

[5] Figures may include a small number of dependants leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes.

[6] Provisional figures.

Deportation: Offenders

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which sections of the UK Border Act relating to the deportation of foreign national prisoners *(a)* had and *(b)* had not been commenced on 30 September 2008; and the provisions of which sections are in active use. [226015]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 October 2008]*: UK Borders Act 2007 Commencement Order No. 3, came into force on 1 August 2008. This order commenced the following provisions which are now in active use.

(a) the provisions set out in Section 32-38 (inclusive) in respect of a person to whom Condition 1 (within the meaning of section 32 of that Act) applies; and

(b) section 39 (consequential amendments).

Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mobile detention centres her Department was operating on 30 September 2008. [225927]

Mr. Woolas: A mobile detention facility pilot consisting of a single vehicle started in Northampton on 30 September and will last for five weeks. This pilot will cover the full range of operational scenarios to test operational capability within the UK and how it complements, or adds to the existing fleet of vehicles available to United Kingdom Border Agency enforcement officers.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the first pilot of the use of mobile detention vans by the Border Agency. [225989]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: A first pilot of a mobile detention solution ended in January 2008. It focused on the needs of immigration officers operating at small ports without short term holding facilities. The deployment in Poole and Newhaven was used to hold people discovered in vehicle searches as a more secure alternative to transporting them to police stations.

The integration of customs and immigration activity at ports as part of the creation of the United Kingdom Border Agency has led to a review of existing port holding facilities. That will inform a future decision on the deployment of any future mobile capability.

During the course of the pilot, the merit of using this type of facility for both pre-planned enforcement operations and to apprehend illegal immigrants was also considered. As a result, the need for a revised vehicle specification was identified to provide the additional flexibility required by UKBA's operational enforcement officers.

Using the revised specification, a second mobile detention pilot started in the Northampton area on 30 September 2008.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the incidence of domestic violence in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas. [225880]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As part of a statutory performance indicator, data on the number of domestic violence incidents reported to the police in England and Wales is collected annually. The most recent available figures for 2006-07 were collected under the police performance assessment framework.

The figures, broken down by *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban police force areas in England and Wales in accordance with the ACORN (a classification of residential neighbourhoods) are outlined in the following table.

Domestic violence incidents 2006-07

Force area	*Number reported*
Rural	
Cambridgeshire	7,501
Cumbria	4,372
Devon and Cornwall	22,828
Durham	8,163
Dyfed Powys[1]	3,871
Gloucestershire	8,237
Lincolnshire[1]	4,912
Norfolk	7,893
North Wales[1]	10,188
North Yorkshire[1]	5,986
Suffolk	4,314
West Mercia	12,799
Wiltshire	6,600
Total	107,664
Urban	
Cheshire	5,161
City of London[2]	96
Cleveland	6,083
Greater Manchester[2]	64,727
Hertfordshire	10,926
Lancashire	22,217
Merseyside[2]	25,568
Metropolitan Police[2]	69,438
Northumbria	24,277
Nottinghamshire	17,534
South Wales	15,421
South Yorkshire	17,825
Staffordshire	18,659
Surrey	11,742
West Midlands[2]	40,233
West Yorkshire[2]	34,481
Total	384,388

[1] Most rural
[2] Most urban

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of domestic violence were reported to the police in each police force area in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [225881]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely provides information on the number of incidents of domestic violence in England and Wales but it is not possible to break the statistics down by police force area.

Drinking Banning Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drinking banning orders have been granted under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. [226017]

Mr. Alan Campbell: None. Drinking banning orders have not yet been commenced under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. The implementation of DBOs has been delayed in the light of recent developments; an improvement in alcohol-related disorder problems and the Government's Alcohol Strategy which sets out the way forward for tackling alcohol misuse. We will need to monitor the situation and take stock at a later date on whether, in the light of this, there is still a need for DBOs.

Driving Offences

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were stopped by police for driving an unsafe car which did not comply with MOT requirements in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* each region of England in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) 2008. [227074]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on such stops is not recorded centrally.

Available information on court proceedings, issue of fixed penalty notices, Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme notices and written warnings in respect of vehicle test and condition offences is contained in the Ministry of Justice Statistical Bulletin "Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales 2006" and its associated Supplementary Tables. The documents are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/motoringoffences.htm

Drugs: Crime

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the prevalence of incidents involving the use of covert administration of scopolamine derivatives in connection with crimes of assault. [226710]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No assessment has been made on this matter.

Entry Clearances

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas issued by posts abroad were revoked in each of the last five years. [226062]

Mr. Woolas: A visa may be revoked by the visa-issuing post overseas under paragraph 30A of the Immigration Rules if (a) false representations were made or material facts not disclosed for the purpose of obtaining the visa, or (b) a change of circumstances since the visa was issued has removed the basis of the holder's claim to be admitted to the UK, or (c) the holder's exclusion from the UK would be conducive to the public good. Apart from multiple entry visit visas, a visa may only be revoked before the holder has travelled to the UK. (A visa may also be cancelled by the visa-issuing post for administrative reasons, e.g. where a mistake has been made).

An Immigration Officer at a UK port may refuse Leave to Enter to the holder of a valid visa for any of the above reasons under paragraph 321 of the Immigration Rules. Such a refusal would invalidate the visa. Leave to Enter which is in force may also be curtailed or cancelled for similar reasons under paragraphs 321A-323 of the rules.

We can only gather information about revoked visas at disproportionate cost because it cannot be retrieved centrally for technical reasons. Local searches could be initiated if a particular country is specified.

Entry Clearances: Belarus

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Belarusian nationals are on the Government's list of those denied entry to the UK. [226455]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency maintains a watchlist of information and intelligence which is used to inform decisions. It is longstanding policy not to disclose the specific data held on this watchlist or the source of the data on it.

The UK does comply with the travel ban imposed by the EU against certain officials of Belarus. The details of those subject to an EU travel ban are published by the EU on their Common Foreign and Security Policy website.

Homicide

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of gang-related homicides in each of the last three years. [226022]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available data were published in table 1.06 of "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2005-06" which was released as an internet-only Home Office Statistical Bulletin on 25 January 2007. At that time there were 10 homicides currently recorded under the apparent principal circumstance category of 'attributed to gang warfare, feud or faction fighting' for 2003-04, nine for 2004-05 and seven for 2005-06. However, with the introduction of a new database in March 2007, comparable data for 2006-07 are not available. It is hoped that figures for 2007-08 will be available after the next annual homicide chapter is published in January 2009.

Identity Cards: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has paid to *(a)* public relations and advertising companies, *(b)* consultants and *(c)* other firms for advice on identity cards and identity management in each of the last five years. [223840]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2691W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Immigrants: Marriage

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to issue guidance on the UK Borders Agency website on the implications of the House of Lords judgements in the cases of Metock and of Baiai. [224696]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is implementing the ECJ judgment in the case of Metock, which relates to the conditions under which European economic area (EEA) nationals' direct family members can reside in the UK. Updated guidance will be published shortly. The UK Border Agency's processes for assessing applications from those in the UK are already compliant with the Metock ruling.

The House of Lords judgment of 30 July in the cases of R (on the application of Baiai and others) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department concerns the Certificate of Approval scheme under section 19 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004 which was developed as a way of combating sham marriages. The UK Border Agency is considering the full implications of this judgment and will publish appropriate guidance once that consideration is completed.

Immigration

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of projected levels on net migration into the UK over the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 25 years; from which countries arrivals are expected; and if she will make a statement. [226841]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what recent estimate has been made of projected levels of net migration into the UK over the next (a) five, (b) 10 and (c) 25 years; from which countries arrivals are expected. (226841)

National population projections are normally produced every two years. The latest (2006-based) national population projections were published by the Office for National Statistics in October 2007 and the next (2008-based) set are planned for publication in October 2009.

The levels of net inward migration to the UK for future years assumed in the 2006-based projections are summarised in the following table. The assumptions underlying national population projections are demographic trend based. They are not forecasts. They do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors (whether in the UK or overseas) might have on demographic behaviour.

Mid-year to mid-year	*Assumed net migration*
2008-09	+230,000
2009-10	+221,400
2010-11	+211,400
2011-12	+201,400
2012-13 and 2013-14	+191,400
2014-15 onwards	+190,000

These assumptions are not available broken down by country of origin or destination.

Licensing Laws

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many summary reviews of a premises licence have been sought by the Police under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003. [226018]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not held centrally by the Home Department.

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State expects to reply to the letters to the UK Border Agency, dated 10 June 2008 (ask card ref B20445/8) and 9 September 2008 from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, regarding Damion McDermott (receipt no. LR162100466). [226640]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to my right hon. Friend on 16 July 2008 and again on 13 October 2008.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State expects to reply to the enquiry dated 9 September 2008 from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood regarding Saeed Saleh (Home Office reference H1069116). [226641]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to my right hon. Friend on 10 October 2008.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Manchester Central of 25 July 2008, on JT, reference M15977/8. [227123]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier) wrote to my hon. Friend on 9 October 2008.

Offensive Weapons: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* under the age of 18 years and *(b)* 18 years and over were arrested in Leeds for carrying (i) knives and (ii) firearms in each of the last 12 months. [226385]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, such as violence against the person and robbery.

Payment Industry and Police Joint Intelligence Unit

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the Payment Industry and Police Joint Intelligence Unit will co-ordinate its work with the *(a)* Police Central E-Crime Unit and *(b)* National Fraud Strategic Authority; and if she will make a statement. [226647]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Police Central E-Crime Unit was launched on 30 September 2008 and will provide law enforcement support for electronic crime reported to the National Fraud Reporting Centre (NFRC), and will also help develop the overall policing response to electronic crime. It is envisaged that this unit will be operational in spring 2009 and the relationship it will have with the Payment Industry and Police Joint Intelligence Unit (PIPJIU) has yet to be finalised, but work on developing the unit is ongoing.

The National Fraud Strategic Authority (NFSA) was formally created as an executive agency of the Attorney-General's office on 1 October to drive forward a comprehensive national strategy for tackling fraud. It brings together Government, criminal justice practitioners, business and the public, focusing on reducing the harm caused by fraud and making the UK a harder target for fraudsters.

Another part of the National Fraud Programme, the NFRC, will radically streamline the way that the public report fraud to the police, while its intelligence bureau will equip law enforcement agencies with a powerful intelligence tool and help form the basis of better prevention advice and alerts for businesses and the public. The NFRC is expected to become operational in spring 2009 and details of how it will operate are still being finalised. However, it is envisaged that it will accept reports of fraud both from individual members of the public and from organisations such as the PIPJIU.

Police: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers per 100,000 residents there were in *(a)* Derbyshire, *(b)* Chesterfield and *(c)* each police authority in England in each year since 1997. [225328]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is as follows:

(a), (c) Data at the police force level are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales", and are given in table 1.

(b) Data at the basic command unit level have been collected since 2002-03, are published annually online as supplementary tables of the main Police Service Strength bulletin, and are given in table 2.

Table 1: Police officers' (FTE) per 100,000 of the population for by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2008

	As at 31 March											
Police force	*1997*[1]	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*[4]	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	204	203	203	197	197	205	213	229	225	226	224	218
Bedfordshire	200	197	189	185	184	189	198	210	215	213	207	204
Cambridgeshire	188	184	179	172	179	187	196	197	194	196	187	183
Cheshire	209	208	211	204	204	209	217	224	223	223	225	218
Cleveland	261	266	255	252	253	263	294	314	305	308	315	303
Cumbria	233	237	229	220	213	224	237	254	257	256	255	251
Derbyshire	187	184	182	183	187	189	210	216	213	212	209	212
Devon and Cornwall	186	192	186	182	187	192	204	208	212	219	216	214
Dorset	189	192	186	189	196	198	205	209	211	216	217	216
Durham	240	249	258	256	263	266	281	288	293	288	285	272
Essex	197	193	190	183	178	181	186	192	198	203	203	203
Gloucestershire	205	198	197	200	209	209	219	229	230	228	229	234
Greater Manchester	268	270	265	264	268	279	298	323	321	318	314	315
Hampshire	198	199	197	193	193	195	208	211	212	211	215	214
Hertfordshire	205	202	198	201	184	174	191	204	206	208	210	204
Humberside	230	228	223	219	217	234	244	256	255	251	251	248
Kent	210	209	204	203	209	210	221	228	227	227	229	227
Lancashire	228	229	228	223	228	231	239	252	251	253	252	254
Leicestershire	211	214	215	215	218	224	232	246	246	241	237	233
Lincolnshire	196	193	184	179	191	189	191	189	185	189	183	175
London, City of	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Merseyside	296	297	298	290	291	294	302	303	318	315	325	331
Metropolitan Police[5]	367	356	352	341	351	366	404	420	433	428	426	430
Norfolk	185	184	176	175	178	183	189	190	192	193	191	190
Northamptonshire	196	193	186	181	186	194	194	198	201	207	200	196
Northumbria	256	263	269	266	272	278	290	294	294	291	283	285
North Yorkshire	183	186	181	173	175	188	193	203	206	216	217	202
Nottinghamshire	225	225	216	214	214	226	239	245	245	243	235	224
South Yorkshire	242	244	243	243	245	246	252	261	260	259	256	248
Staffordshire	209	217	211	204	201	201	212	218	220	219	219	214
Suffolk	180	179	179	171	168	177	188	196	195	191	196	188
Surrey	209	207	212	227	192	184	182	183	184	184	183	179
Sussex	211	203	191	188	188	190	203	206	205	207	205	201

Table 1: Police officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population for by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2008

	As at 31 March:											
Police force	*1997[3]*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[4]*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Thames Valley	180	183	180	178	175	177	186	195	198	202	199	194
Warwickshire	186	185	180	178	182	190	198	197	195	198	199	198
West Mercia	183	180	180	166	171	176	196	202	203	202	205	210
West Midlands	270	271	278	274	283	293	307	311	316	318	318	324
West Yorkshire	247	244	236	228	228	230	242	254	271	270	270	269
Wiltshire	195	195	192	185	184	189	190	198	198	196	192	190
Dyfed-Powys	212	210	215	217	219	234	237	236	237	237	236	237
Gwent	275	222	224	227	229	239	244	248	259	264	268	266
North Wales	208	213	212	213	220	228	234	243	250	242	238	234
South Wales	223	242	241	236	250	259	273	275	273	271	273	264

[1] This table is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Figures up to 31 March 2002 exclude staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The figures for 31 March 2003 onwards include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources for the policing of the Rhmney Valley from South Wales police to Gwent police.
[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.
[5] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan police are combined.

Table 2: Police officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population for Chesterfield basic command unit, as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2008

As at 31 March:	*FTE*
2003	140
2004	139
2005	129
2006	137
2007	126
2008	129

[1] This table is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Figures include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Mass Media

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what her policy is on the disclosure of details of criminal activity by the police to the media; [226734]

(2) how many police forces have introduced policies of withholding reports of criminal activities from the media; and if she will make a statement; [226735]

(3) whether she has advised chief constables that reports of criminal activities should not be disclosed to the media; [226737]

(4) how many representations she has received on the decision of Essex Police not to make reports of criminal activities available to the media. [226738]

Mr. Alan Campbell: These issues are related to operational matters that are the responsibility of the chief constable of the force concerned. The Home Office has received no representations and made no recommendations. If there are particular concerns about force policy in this area they should be raised with the chief constable.

Road Traffic Offences: Foreigners

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK residents have committed motoring offences which, had they been committed by UK residents, would have resulted in *(a)* a fixed penalty being issued and *(b)* penalty points being added to a driving licence, excluding those offences pursuable under the provisions of the European Arrest Warrant, in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [226724]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Motoring offence statistics do not identify the place of residence of those offered fixed penalties or whose licences are endorsed by court order. The offer of a fixed penalty, whether or not accompanied by penalty points, is not automatic, but a matter of police operational discretion in every case. If a case goes to court and is endorsable the court will decide the number of penalty points to be endorsed, within the scale prescribed for the offence, or may decide for special reasons not to order endorsement.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many convictions under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 for supplying unlicensed security staff there were in the North Wales Police force area in 2006; [226691]

(2) how many convictions under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 for working in a licensable role without a Security Industry Agency licence there were in the North Wales Police force area in 2006. [226692]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* There were no convictions in the North Wales Police force area for the offence of supplying unlicensed security staff under section 5 of the Act in 2006.

In 2006 there were seven convictions in the North Wales Police force area under section 3 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 for working in a licensable role without a Security Industry Agency licence.

UK Border Agency: Corruption

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place in the UK Border Agency to prevent staff corruption. [226144]

Mr. Woolas: There are a range of measures in place in the UK Border Agency to prevent staff corruption. These include pre-employment and security screening for staff, safeguards, checks and balances built into systems

and processes and a programme of security audits. It is not in the public interest to disclose specific details of these mechanisms as to do so would compromise them.

UK Border Agency: Marketing

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on changing *(a)* signage and *(b)* other branded external and internal fittings at UK Border Agency buildings and airport facilities. [226055]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency has not kept central records of expenditure on changes to signage and other external fittings. To attempt to provide a composite figure would represent a disproportionate cost to the Department.

UK Border Agency: Security

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many electronic breaches of security there were at the UK Border Agency in each of the last three years. [226145]

Mr. Woolas: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm whether they hold information about attacks against their IT systems. This would enable individuals to deduce how successful the UK is in detecting these attacks and so assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences. This is not in the public interest.

UK Border Agency: Surveys

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to assess staff morale at all grades within the UK Border Agency; and if she will publish the results of any such assessment. [226059]

Mr. Woolas: Managers in the UK Border Agency use a wide range of methods to assess staff morale, and to hear their views on practical changes which would improve motivation and performance. These include regular conversations with direct reports and with whole teams throughout the line management chain; programmes of visits to and discussions with frontline staff; and a variety of fora hosted on the Department's intranet whereby staff can post their views and get responses from Board members and other senior managers.

The management also hold regular meetings with the recognised trade unions at all levels.

In common with other Departments, the Home Office including the UK Border Agency, carries out a regular survey of staff attitudes and engagement. The results of the most recent survey are available to staff on the intranet, and will be published on the Cabinet Office public website in the next month.

UK Border Agency: Uniforms

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on the *(a)* design and commissioning and *(b)* manufacturing of uniforms for the UK Border Agency and its predecessors in each of the last five years. [226053]

Mr. Woolas: We are not yet in a position to provide the cost of the design, manufacture and distribution of uniforms for the UK Border Agency. We are currently scoping the requirements for a single uniform for frontline officers. The costs will be dependent on the commercial and procurement solutions delivered.

In 2006-07, the Home Department spent (inclusive of VAT) £16,017.00 on the provision of uniforms for frontline operational staff at the border; £970,001.14 in 2007-08 and £192,384.24 in 2008 to date.

Vetting

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Criminal Records Bureau and *(b)* Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks were conducted in each year for which figures are available. [226612]

Meg Hillier: The number of Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks which have been dispatched since the CRB's inception are detailed in the following table and separated by the two types of checks that the CRB currently offer, standard or enhanced disclosures:

	Disclosures dispatched	
Financial year	*Number of standard disclosures*	*Number of enhanced disclosures*
2002-03	178,375	1,258,719
2003-04	285,130	1,999,558
2004-05	275,197	2,155,740
2005-06	313,368	2,456,897
2006-07	329,223	2,948,734
2007-08	294,592	3,028,659

HEALTH

Action on Smoking and Health: Finance

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he takes to audit funding provided to Action on Smoking and Health by his Department to determine what proportion is used to lobby his Department; [227446]

(2) how many meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* his ministerial colleagues and *(c)* his officials have had on the future of tobacco control with (i) charities, (ii) professional bodies, (iii) retail businesses and (iv) manufacturers in the last three years; which of the charities with which meetings have been held are funded by his Department; and in each case how much funding has been allocated to each charity. [227447]

Dawn Primarolo: Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) received funding from the Department in the current financial year in accordance with the 'Section 64 General Scheme of Grants to voluntary and Community Organisations'. The standard conditions attached to these grants including audit procedures are published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Section64grants/DH_076281

ASH has received this grant specifically to carry out a defined project entitled "Capitalising on Smokefree: the way forward". None of this funding is to be used for lobbying purposes.

The Department has completed a public consultation on 31 May 2008 on the future of tobacco control. This consultation was carried out in accordance with the Cabinet office code of practice. A copy of the, consultation document has already been placed in the Library.

Meetings have taken place at all levels of the Department, and at regional and local level. No central record has been kept of all the meetings held with the organisations listed and with other stakeholders. The consultation has received over 95,000 responses and these are being analysed.

In due course a summary of the analysis of responses will be published on the Department's website. A large number of charitable organisations will have been involved in responding to the consultation. Details of the funding of those organisations attending meetings or taking part in this consultation have not been collected in the form requested. There will continue to be meetings with interested stakeholders at all appropriate levels, as a future strategy is developed to tackle the death and disease caused by smoking.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Government has in place to ensure that there are appropriate resources and infrastructure for all breast screening units to have at least one full-field digital mammography set by 2010, as stated in the Cancer Reform Strategy. [226282]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts are responsible for ensuring that all local breast screening units have at least one full-field digital mammography set by 2010. The rollout of digital mammography to the NHS Breast Screening Programme is being supported by a capital investment of approximately £120 million. This money has been allocated to trusts as part of the wider capital funding allocation they receive.

As a result of requests from local breast screening services, we have put in place a national framework contract for digital mammography X-ray equipment. This approach will enable standardised equipment to be purchased, the best value for money to be obtained, and will support local services with national expertise. Further details on how this will be taken forward will be issued to the national health service in the autumn.

Cancer: Children

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what childhood cancer centres there are in England; and how many *(a)* patients under treatment, *(b)* consultant medical staff and *(c)* clinical nurse specialists there are at each. [226143]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this data centrally.

With regard to staff, it is for local employers to work in partnership with cancer networks, strategic health authorities, national health service trusts and post graduate deaneries to put in place a sustainable process to access, plan and review their workforce needs against local and national priorities for cancer.

Care Homes

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the availability of residential care home places in *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* London and *(c)* England. [225924]

Phil Hope: We were informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the total numbers of residential care homes and places, as at 10 September 2008, were as shown in the following table. It should be noted that the figures shown are the total number of registered homes and places on the date shown. Information on occupancy levels and vacancy rates in care homes is not collected centrally.

Numbers of care homes and registered places

Area	*All care homes*	*Registered places*
England	18,464	450,210
London	1,978	39,916
Bexley	36	1,069

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database

Cervical Cancer

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the detection rates for cervical cancers in women under 25 years old. [226880]

Ann Keen: The incidence of cervical cancer in women under the age of 25 is very rare. In 2005, only 1.9 per cent. of all registrations of cervical cancer were in women aged under 25 and there were no deaths from cervical cancer in that age group.

Any women under 25 who are concerned about their risk of developing cervical cancer should contact their general practitioner or genito-urinary medicine clinic to discuss the matter.

In September 2008, we introduced a human papillomavirus immunisation programme to routinely vaccinate girls aged 12-13 years. Young women aged 17-18 will also be offered the vaccination during the current school year, and a catch-up of girls up to the age of 18 will commence next autumn. As the vaccine offers protection against the two virus types that cause 70 per cent. of all cervical cancers, we expect this immunisation programme to reduce cervical cancer rates in England over time. Experts estimate that the programme will save 400 lives a year.

Chiropody

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has published on the decontamination procedure for nail clipping implements used for chiropody care in the NHS. [226276]

Ann Keen: The Department has not published specific guidance on decontamination procedures for nail clipping or indeed other procedures within chiropody and podiatry. However, the Department has recently started a process of consultation with the professional and learned bodies across the foot-care professions and many other groups within primary care. This will result in a specific Health

Technical Memorandum (HTM 01-07) Decontamination in Primary Care. Publication, following consultation and peer review, is expected in nine to 12 months' time.

Dental Services

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists per 100,000 residents there were in *(a)* Chesterfield, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [225899]

Ann Keen: The number of dentists with NHS activity per 100,000 population, during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 is available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08 report. Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Information by constituency is not available. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

This measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. The revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

The number of persons per NHS dentist in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex F of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006 report. The information is provided by PCT and SHA. Equivalent information by constituency is not available; however the number of NHS dentists by constituency is available in Annex G.

This measure relates to the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The dentist numbers published are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with the Chief Dental Officer the development of a programme to encourage universal regular cleaning of teeth, with the co-operation of relevant manufacturers of oral hygiene products; and if he will make a statement. [226207]

Ann Keen: The Department has been collaborating with manufacturers of oral hygiene products on oral health promotion since 2001. Under the Brushing for Life scheme, which was launched in 2001, free packs containing a toothbrush a tube of fluoride toothpaste and a leaflet on oral hygiene are given to families with young children in clinics and Sure Start Children's Centres. The leaflet is designed to reinforce the advice given by the health or social care professional, who gives the pack to the child's parent or carer, about the importance of brushing with fluoride toothpaste in the morning and at night. Colgate-Palmolive (UK) Ltd was awarded the contract for the supply of toothpaste in the most recent competitive tendering exercise. The chief dental officer has collaborated with the company on a series of conferences to publicise the Brushing for Life Scheme and, more recently, to promote good practice in incorporating preventive measures in general dental practice. The chief dental officer has regular contact with the other major toothpaste and oral hygiene products manufacturers.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there is a limit on the number of patients who can be registered with any one NHS dentist. [226268]

Ann Keen: How many patients a dentist is able to provide care for is a matter for the individual dentist, taking account of the contracted yearly activity he or she has agreed with their local NHS primary care trust to deliver. Registration is no longer part of the formal national remuneration system.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists have their surgeries on premises shared with private dental hygienists. [227435]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. Most dentists are independent contractors, and many practice owners chose to offer both national health service and private treatment. It is for practice owners to decide whether to employ or engage a hygienist as part of their dental team, and whether or not to use them to deliver private or NHS dental treatment.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS dentists' contract requires dentists offering treatment under the NHS to provide dental *(a)* polishing and *(b)* cleaning services under the contract. [227437]

Ann Keen: The national health service contractual requirement is to provide all proper and necessary dental care and treatment that the patient is willing to undergo. A Band 1 course of treatment (diagnosis, treatment planning and maintenance) includes examination, diagnosis (for example X-rays), advice on how to prevent future problems, and scaling and polishing if clinically needed.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average charge made by dentists for *(a)* crown fitting, *(b)* root treatment and *(c)* a check-up. [226267]

Ann Keen: Dentists are not paid separately, nor are patients charged, for single items of national health service dental treatment. The present three tier system of NHS dental charges sets the charge payable by an NHS patient according to the overall content of each course of treatment. From 1 April 2008 the patient

charge for a band 1 course of treatment which may include an examination and diagnosis, treatment planning and preventive treatment, is £16.20. The charge for a band 2 course of treatment, which includes any necessary band 1 treatment plus any interventions such as fillings or root canal treatments, is £44.60. A band 3 course of treatment, which includes any necessary band 1 and band 2 treatments plus the provision of appliances such as one or more crowns, bridges and dentures, incurs a patient charge of £198. A patient does not have to pay for NHS dental treatment if they are aged under 18; aged 18 and in full-time education; pregnant or have had a baby in the previous 12 months; or are in receipt of certain defined benefits, tax and pension credits, or qualify for assistance under the NHS low income Scheme.

The Department collects no data on charges levied by dentists for private dental treatment, which are set by the individual dentist or dental practice.

Dental Services: Greater Manchester

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients are registered with dentists in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* Greater Manchester. [226269]

Ann Keen: Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to "registration" is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ("patients seen") over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in England, over the previous 24-month period, is available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007 and 31 December 2007. Information is provided by strategic health authority and primary care trust (PCT).

This report, published on 5 June 2008 by the Information Centre for health and social care, has already been placed in the Library. It is available on the Information Centre for health and social care's website at: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

The Dental Services Division (DSD) of the NHS Business Services Authority has recently issued patients seen information at PCT level. However, this was for management purposes. PCTs have recently raised some issues which suggest that the way in which patients are allocated to PCTs across the various quarters needs to be reviewed. This means that sub-national information on patients seen was not included in the "Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report, published by the NHS Information Centre on 21 August 2008. The DSD has confirmed that this issue could have only a minimal impact on the national figures. They were therefore labelled as provisional pending the review. An update will be provided in the "Dental Statistics for England: 2008/09 Quarter 1" report in November 2008.

Dental Services: Private Sector

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake an investigation of the effect of the takeover of dental practices by Associated Dental Practices Co. Ltd on the provision of dental services; and if he will make a statement. [226115]

Ann Keen: Associated Dental Practices is one of a number of corporate bodies providing national health service dental care. The company bids for NHS contracts on the same basis as any other company or individual practice owner. Since the reform of dental contracts in 2006, providers of dental services, do not control the level of provision of dental services but contract with primary care trusts to deliver an annual amount of service.

We are committed to increasing the number of patients able to access NHS care and welcome the growing interest of commercial companies in providing services to the NHS.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226420]

Mr. Bradshaw: There were 809 non-pensionable bonuses awarded to staff in the last year, at a cost of £2,423,701.

Special bonuses can be awarded to any member of staff in recognition of work beyond their normal range of duties. Annual bonuses are paid to staff who are members of the senior civil service (SCS), based on the extent to which objectives are met, how they are met and how stretching they are. The figures provided cover special bonuses for the year from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008, and annual SCS bonuses awarded in 2008.

Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average points score was for practices across each primary care trust for the 16 indicators for diabetes in the quality of outcomes framework. [225179]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what figures his Department holds on predicted diabetes rates in the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [225183]

(2) how many people with diagnosed type two diabetes there are in each primary care trust; and how many people are estimated to have undiagnosed type two diabetes in each such area. [225184]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold information on predicted diabetes rates for the next 10 years. Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory's PBS Diabetes Population Prevalence Model forecasts that, if obesity levels continue to rise at the same rate, there will be over 3.2 million with people with diabetes in 2020.

	Scenario 1: Obesity rise continues[1]	*Scenario 2: Obesity maintained at 2005 level*
2005	2,262,484	2,262,484
2010	2,561,421	2,434,164
2015	2,874,066	2,600,833
2020	3,229,734	2,788,676
2025	3,605,133	2,974,995

[1] Based on extrapolation of 1991-2006 trend in body mass index distribution in the Health Survey for England

Information on the number of people diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in each primary care trust (PCT) is not available. However, tables have been placed in the Library which show the number of people on diabetes registers (including both type 1 and type 2 diabetes) from April 2007 to March 2008, broken down by PCT, from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in the QOF. The QOF only includes people with diabetes aged 17 or over.

The PBS Diabetes Population Prevalence Model can estimate the number of people with diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes in each PCT. The table shows the estimated number of people with type 2 diabetes (diagnosed and undiagnosed) per PCT in 2005, the latest information available from the PBS model.

Health Inequality

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to develop a joint health inequality study with his counterparts in the Scottish Executive, Northern Ireland Assembly and Welsh Assembly Government. [226870]

Dawn Primarolo: No steps have been taken to develop a joint health inequality study. While responsibility for health matters rests with the devolved Administrations, there has been, and continues to be, liaison and co-operation between the Department and the other health departments on health inequalities, including meetings to exchange information on current work and strategy.

Health Professions: Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to ensure health practitioners are suitably qualified and trained. [226774]

Ann Keen: The publication of High Quality Care for All in June 2008 followed an intensive consultation with all the key stakeholders including patients, the public and staff. The report was warmly received by all and set out how the NHS work force will be developed, specifying how the Department will work with regulatory bodies, professional groups and commissioners to ensure that health practitioners are suitable qualified and trained to deliver high quality healthcare. The report has already been placed in the Library.

Health: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of offering free universal health check ups for everyone over 40 years of age starting from April 2009, as announced by the Prime Minister on 23 September; what the expected take-up rate is; and on what that estimate is based. [225951]

Ann Keen: The free universal check up for those aged over 40, to which the Prime Minister referred on 23 September, is the vascular checks programme. This will put in place an integrated, systematic population-wide vascular risk assessment and management programme for those between the ages of 40 and 74. The programme will assess people's risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

The total annual cost at full implementation (including interventions to manage the risk of vascular disease) was estimated to be in the region of £250 million in the first phase of the modelling. This is in addition to what is currently being spent on vascular checks type activity in many primary care trusts. The estimate is based on detailed economic modelling work that underpins the vascular checks programme, on which we have recently consulted. We are reviewing our modelling and analysis in the light of this.

The expected take-up rate of the vascular checks programme we have used in the economic modelling is 75 per cent., based on the rate achieved in the national breast screening programme.

Health: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) from which budget the funding will be taken for the free universal check-ups for everyone over 40 years of age from April 2009; [226283]

(2) how his Department's free universal check-ups for everyone over 40 years of age, available from April 2009, will differ from the free consultations with a GP that are available to any patient who has not had one in the last three years; [226284]

(3) how his Department plans to advertise to those over the age of 40 years the availability of free universal check-ups from April 2009; [226290]

(4) what checks will be included in the free universal check-ups to be made available to everyone over the age of 40 years starting from April 2009; [226295]

(5) where the free universal check-ups available to everyone over 40 years of age will be delivered; and how long each check-up will take; [226296]

(6) how many free universal check-ups for those over the age of 40 years his Department expects to be given in 2009-10; and what the average cost of each check-up is expected to be; [226297]

(7) how frequently people over 40 years of age will be able to receive a free universal check-up after April 2009. [226298]

Ann Keen: The free universal check up for those aged over 40, to which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister referred on 23 September, is the vascular checks programme. This will put in place an integrated, systematic population-wide vascular risk assessment and management programme for those between the ages of 40 and 74. The programme will assess people's risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. People will be recalled every five years unless they are identified as having a high risk of vascular disease or have previously untreated or undiagnosed existing vascular disease, in which case they will be managed appropriately through primary care.

The vascular check will include a number of well-evidenced tests for vascular disease and diabetes risk factors such as blood pressure, cholesterol measurement, and Body Mass Index and questions such as age, gender, smoking status, physical activity, and family history. Each person will be given the results of their tests, which will be an individual assessment of their vascular risk, and advice on how to manage it. Following this, appropriate interventions will be offered depending on the individual's level of risk. We estimate it will take two appointments at about 15 minutes each to complete the check.

The check is designed to be undertaken in a variety of settings to ensure maximum possible take up. For example, it can be undertaken in a general practitioners surgery, a pharmacy or other community settings such as community centres. Primary care trusts (PCTs) will commission this service and in doing so will decide the most appropriate locations in which it should be delivered bearing in mind the local needs and circumstances of their population.

It is difficult to estimate the number of tests that will be undertaken during the first year of implementation in 2009-10 since many PCTs are already running vascular checks type programmes in their areas. Also, implementation of this programme will be phased and so the number of checks carried out in the first year will depend on the pace at which each PCT decides to roll it out. The estimated average cost of a vascular check used in the first phase of the modelling that underpins this programme was in the region of £33.50. This figure may be subject to change as further modelling work is currently underway to refine costings, following a consultation exercise over the summer. The funding to implement this programme will be allocated to PCTs.

The NHS Next Stage Review, "High Quality Care for All", published on 30 June 2008, announced the introduction of the 'Reduce Your Risk' campaign, which will raise awareness of the vascular checks programme and vascular conditions generally. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Heart Diseases

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the clinical strategy on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to be published. [226067]

Ann Keen: The Department is aiming to publish the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Strategy before the end of the current financial year.

Independent Reconfiguration Panel

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who the last five people to leave the Independent Reconfiguration Panel were; when they left; and how long they served for; [226457]

(2) what discussions his Department had with the Independent Reconfiguration Panel on its review of services at Bridlington Hospital prior to the announcement of the Panel's decision; [226541]

(3) how many people the Independent Reconfiguration Panel employs; [226543]

(4) what payments members of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel receive; [226544]

(5) who makes appointments to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel; and what the duration of such appointments is. [226545]

Ann Keen: Four members have left the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) since it was established in 2003. Dame Kathyrn Elcoat (left 19 May 2005), Lise Llewellyn (left 31 March 2006), Malcolm Stamp (left 31 March 2006) and the Right Reverend Mark Santer (left 30 September 2007).

Departmental officials liaised with the officers of the IRP over the timing of the publication of the IRP report on Bridlington in line with the protocol between DH and the IRP. The Secretary of State for Health also met with Dr. Peter Barrett (chair) and Richard Jeavons (chief executive) of the IRP in July 2008 to review all ongoing IRP work.

The IRP is an advisory non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department of Health. The IRP is supported by three full time staff, a chief executive, a secretary and an office support manager.

Members of the panel are entitled to claim £140 per day for work on IRP business together with normal expenses in line with civil service rates.

It is the Appointments Commission who appoints all members to the IRP and all original members have been re-appointed though the Appointments Commission. Although the chair of the IRP was reappointed by Ministers on 1 April 2005, this time he will be re-appointed by the Appointments Commission. Initial terms of office are usually four years.

Lung Diseases

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease have also been diagnosed with asthma in each primary care trust in England; and if he will make a statement. [226478]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally as it is not possible to accurately identify or analyse patients with both asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease from General Practice Disease Registers.

Maternity Services

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* NHS maternity services in the 2007-08 financial year. [225896]

Ann Keen: The requested statistics are given as follows.

Forecast outturn net NHS expenditure for 2007-08 is £89,217 million[1].

Total expenditure on the commissioning of secondary maternity services by primary care trusts in 2007-08 is £ 1,787 million[2].

Sources:

[1] Position at 30 September HMT COINs Database

[2] 2007-08 Audited PCT Financial Monitoring and Accounts Forms

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1101-02W, on maternity services: finance, how much was spent on NHS maternity services in each region of England in 2007-08. [225946]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Strategic health authority (SHA)	*£000*
East Midlands SHA	149,169
East of England SHA	159,823
London SHA	284,164
North East SHA	90,422
North West SHA	280,312
South Central SHA	127,500
South East Coast SHA	118,452
South West SHA	164,714
West Midlands SHA	198,565
Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	213,775
England total	1,786,896

Source:

Audited primary care trust (PCT) Financial Monitoring and Accounts Forms 2007-08. The figures are based on the commissioning of secondary healthcare maternity services by PCTs.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess whether a policy of introducing compulsory single room occupancy in maternity units would result in the closure of any existing units. [226721]

Ann Keen: In the national health service, it is practice that all women give birth in single rooms except where medical interventions take place, for example, a caesarean section which would mean delivery in an operating theatre. Pre and post-natal stays may be in a single room or in a multi-bed bay. In some cases, especially antenatal, it may be inappropriate from a clinical standpoint, for example, day observation, for a single room to be used.

There is no policy of compulsory single room occupancy. How maternity services are structured and commissioned, to meet the needs of the local population, is a matter for local determination.

Medical Equipment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of disposable surgical instruments supplied to the NHS since 1997, broken down by sub-heading. [226277]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

NHS trusts and strategic health authorities make decisions on the use of disposable or single-use instruments at local level.

A framework agreement for single use instruments was awarded in May 2001 with all products for England being supplied through the NHS Supply Chain. NHS Supply Chain places orders against this agreement depending on the orders received from NHS trusts. The framework is not mandatory and does not cover all NHS trusts. Prior to 2003 data were collated at a local trust level and no information is held centrally.

Cost of single use surgical instrument orders

Description	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	£ *2007-08*
Tube suction surgical fine		30,981	93,714	183,288	230,269	285,882
Scissors tissue	167,946	187,904	186,463	214,712	229,522	269,924
Scissors suture sterile hook point	210,727	217,121	218,416	235,314	227,344	234,083
Scissors stitch	192,944	202,242	229,725	250,978	236,127	227,607
Forceps dissecting/dressing	51,540	86,578	111,819	122,105	145,861	147,216
Scissors	18,916	43,729	61,919	80,872	105,192	122,597
Sponge holder		3,168	14,188	21,059	30,027	34,088
Scissors single use dressing						207
Clip Remover single use general						814
Instrument lubricant	4,608	7,514	7,919	8,345	11,478	11,529
Scissors single use universal						29
Forceps single use introducing						741
Forceps single use dissecting						169
Scissors single use bandage						257
Forceps single use artery						608
Bellows single use						146
Saw blade single use						1,150
Forceps single use aural						286
Forceps single use dressing						35
Speculum single use sigmoidoscope						609

Cost of single use surgical instrument orders

Description	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Scissors single use	—	—	—	—	—	169
Forceps single use splinter	—	—	—	—	—	25
Light stem single use proctoscope	—	—	—	—	—	159
Scissors single use general	—	—	—	—	—	41
Dilator single use tracheal	—	—	—	—	—	94
Speculum single use nasal	—	—	—	—	—	60
Scissors single use Vigo	—	—	—	—	—	85
Retriever single use thread	—	—	—	—	—	125
Bur single use conical	—	—	—	—	—	80
Probe single use ear	—	—	—	—	—	136
Applicator single use nail	—	—	—	—	—	31
Gallipot single use	—	—	—	—	—	426
Curette single use bone	—	—	—	—	—	62
Forceps single use uterine	—	—	—	—	—	72
Speculum single use proctoscope	—	—	—	—	—	37
Needle holder single use	—	—	—	—	—	88
Forceps single use nasal	—	—	—	—	—	151
Dilator single use throat	—	—	—	—	—	132
Quiver single use diathermy	—	—	—	—	—	316
Forceps single use general	—	—	—	—	—	9
Scissors single use iris	—	—	—	—	—	18
Sound single use uterine	—	—	—	—	—	72
Hook single use ear	—	—	—	—	—	90
Probe single use Jobson Horne	—	—	—	—	—	29
Depressor single use tongue	—	—	—	—	—	154
Hook single use IUCD	—	—	—	—	—	41
Needle holder single use Kilner	—	—	—	—	—	79
Forceps single use iris	—	—	—	—	—	24
File single use nail	—	—	—	—	—	3
Grand total	646,680	779,238	924,163	1,116,672	1,215,820	1,340,787

Midwives

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS consultant midwives there were in each region of England in 2007. [225889]

Ann Keen: The number of NHS consultant midwives there are in each region of England is shown in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: nurse consultants in the Maternity Services area of work in England by strategic health authority area as at 30 September 2007.

	Headcount
England	53
North East Strategic Health Authority area	3
North West Strategic Health Authority area	9
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	4
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	1
East of England Strategic Health Authority area	2
London Strategic Health Authority area	23
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	5
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	5
South West Strategic Health Authority area	1

Note:
Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the NHS workforce in England comprised midwives in each of the last two years for which figures are available, expressed in terms of *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent. [225892]

Ann Keen: The 2006 national health service workforce census showed that there were 24,469 midwives or 18,862 full-time equivalent.

The 2007 NHS workforce census showed that there were 25,093 midwives or 19,298 full-time equivalent.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual cost to public funds was of training a student midwife in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* tuition, *(b)* bursary and *(c)* other costs. [225894]

Ann Keen: The average national benchmark price for the tuition fee for a student midwife in 2007-08 was £7,968.

The average NHS Bursary paid to a student midwife in 2007-08 was £5,796. This includes the basic award, all supplementary allowances and one off payments.

Other costs include:

a reduced rate loan for living costs from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Student midwives in receipt of a means tested NHS Bursary can apply for this reduced rate loan. Information is not held centrally on the cost of these loans for student midwives.

Access to Learning Funds which is the extra financial support provided by colleges and universities to students in financial hardship. Information is not held centrally on the cost of Access to Learning Funds for student midwives; and

Salary support funding for student midwives who are seconded onto midwifery courses. Information is not held centrally on the salary support costs for student midwives.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many student midwives were in receipt of a bursary in each academic year since 1996-97; what average bursary was paid to a student midwife in each year; and what the total cost was of all bursaries paid to student midwives in each year. [225895]

Ann Keen: The number of student midwives in receipt of an NHS bursary in each year since 1996-97, the average bursary paid to a student midwife in each year and the total cost of all bursaries paid to student midwives in each year is shown in the following table.

Bursaries paid to NHS funded midwifery students for academic years 1996/97 to 2007/08

	Number of bursary holders[1]	*Bursary—amount paid*[2] *(£)*	*Average bursary amount (£)*	*Additions—amount paid*[3] *(£)*	*Total—amount paid (£)*	*Average amount paid per bursary holder (£)*
1996/97	n/a	n/a	...	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997/98	102	305,914	2,999	0	305,914	2,999
1998/99	362	1,029,368	2,844	3,390	1,032,758	2,853
1999/2000	1,216	4,445,349	3,656	258,518	4,703,867	3,868
2000/01	1,980	8,065,410	4,073	349,906	8,415,316	4,250
2001/02	2,751	12,539,276	4,558	462,947	13,002,223	4,726
2002/03	3,166	14,808,831	4,677	588,848	15,397,679	4,863
2003/04	3,541	17,016,120	4,805	671,893	17,688,013	4,995
2004/05	3,735	19,903,977	5,329	728,896	20,632,873	5,524
2005/06	3,903	21,203,968	5,433	856,868	22,060,836	5,652
2006/07	3,812	20,943,604	5,494	841,390	21,784,994	5,715
2007/08	3,984	22,322,893	5,603	767,113	23,090,006	5,796

[1] Includes nil award holders (European Union fees only students and students whose living allowance element of the bursary has been reduced to nil after income assessment). Phased uptake. Prior to 1997 local education authorities were primarily responsible for the administration of HE maintenance grants under Department for Education and Skills (mandatory awards) regulation to degree level students. From 1999 Student Bursaries became responsible for the payment of bursaries to new diploma level students, formally the responsibility of higher education institutions.

[2] Includes the basic award and all supplementary allowances. Excludes one-off payments e.g. re-imbursement of practice placement costs.

[3] Includes one-off payments e.g. disabled students allowance, reimbursement of practice placement costs etc.

Source:

NHS Business Services Authority Student Bursaries Unit

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 513-4W, on midwives, how many live births per full-time equivalent NHS midwife there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region of England in 2007. [225947]

Ann Keen: The information will be available in December 2008.

Naomi House

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to assist Naomi House in recovering the funds it invested in Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Limited. [227363]

Mr. Bradshaw: The investment of funds by charitable organisations are governed by investment and accountability rules set by the Charities Commission, and are beyond the scope of the Department.

The Charity Commission has published guidance concerning the principles to be applied in the investment of charitable funds (its leaflet CC14) and has recently published guidance to charities concerning the Financial Compensation Scheme. Queries relating to charitable funds should be directed to the Charity Commission in the first instance.

Naomi House

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has provided to Naomi House in each of the last four years. [227364]

Ann Keen: The Department has provided Naomi House with payments under the Children's Hospice and Children's Hospice at Home scheme only for the past three years. Details of that funding is shown in the following table.

	£
2006-07	330,000
2007-08	300,000
2008-09	317,475

NHS Foundation Trusts: Bank Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what deposits foundation trusts held with commercial banks in the latest period for which figures are available; [227457]

(2) whether any foundation trusts have deposits in Icelandic banks. [227546]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement issued on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 38-39WS.

We have been advised by the Chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS foundation trusts) that as at 31 March 2008 the aggregated cash balances and investments of 89 NHS foundation trusts (authorised as at 31 March 2008) amounted to £2.3 billion. The cash and investment balance is broken down as follows:

	£ million
Cash at commercial banks and in hand	256.6
Cash at Office of Paymaster General	1,636.8
Investments	374

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rules govern foundation trusts depositing funds other than with the Paymaster General. [227458]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service foundation trusts are autonomous organisations, free from central Government control. As high performing organisations, NHS Foundation Trusts have wide discretion to invest money. The boards of NHS Foundation Trusts are responsible for ensuring that surplus cash is invested in accordance with their duty to safeguard and properly account for the use of public money. Monitor, the independent regulator, has issued best practice guidance on how NHS Foundation Trusts should mange their cash. This guidance reflects prudent practice, and is designed to promote fiscal responsibility and prudent investments that do not compromise effective, efficient and economic delivery of services.

NHS: Bank Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* strategic health authorities, *(c)* NHS trusts, *(d)* foundation trusts and *(e)* the NHS bank hold deposits in commercial banks; what advice he has given to such NHS organisations on the exposure of such investments to bank collapse; and if he will make such a statement. [227456]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect in-year data for the cash balances of commercial bank accounts held by strategic health authorities (SHAs), primary care trusts (PCTs), NHS trusts or NHS foundation trusts. However this information is reported at the end of the financial year and forms part of an NHS organisation's annual accounts.

For indicative purposes, the following table shows the amount held on deposit in commercial banks or held as cash at the 31 March 2008.

Organisation type	*Commercial cash at bank and in hand (£000s)*
Strategic health authorities	4
Primary care trusts	6,790
NHS trusts	10,113
NHS foundation trusts	256,600

In general, the large majority of cash balances held by NHS organisations will be in Government bank accounts with HM Office of the Paymaster General, which all NHS organisations must hold.

SHAs and PCTs may hold commercial bank accounts but in practice the large majority of cash balances of all SHAs and PCTs will be in Government bank accounts. In addition, SHAs and PCTs are discouraged from holding commercial bank accounts by applying a charge to any average cleared balance over £25,000.

National health service trusts are able to hold commercial bank accounts but these are limited by legislation and in practice the large majority of balances for NHS trusts will be held in Government bank accounts.

NHS foundation trusts are autonomous organisations, free from central Government control. As high performing organisations, NHS foundation trusts have wide discretion to invest money. The boards of NHS foundation trusts are responsible for ensuring that surplus cash is invested in accordance with their duty to safeguard and properly account for the use of public money. Monitor, the independent regulator, has issued best practice guidance on how NHS foundation trusts should mange their cash. This guidance reflects prudent practice, and is designed to promote fiscal responsibility and prudent investments that do not compromise effective, efficient and economic delivery of services.

It should be noted the NHS Bank no longer exists.

NHS: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the increase in the total NHS settlement for 2007-08 was spent on additional or increased salaries. [226863]

Ann Keen: The requested statistics are given in the table.

Proportion of the increase in the NHS expenditure on pay

£ million

	Total NHS expenditure	*Total pay bill*
2006-07 out-turn	80,561	35,312
2007-08 estimated out-turn	89,217	36,685
Increase	8,656	1,373

Notes:
1. Total expenditure is calculated as the sum of revenue and capital expenditure net of non-trust depreciation and impairments. This is in line with HMT guidance.
2. Total pay bill comprises all NHS staff in England only and excludes agency; includes estimates for foundation trusts.
3. Pay bill figures are taken from final NHS financial returns for 2006-07.
4. The forecasts of pay for 2007-08 are consistent with those supplied as part of the written evidence to pay review bodies.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will break down the NHS Settlement for 2007-08 as allocated to centrally-funded initiatives by main budget heading; and if he will make a statement. [226864]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested information is contained in the Department of Health's departmental report 2008 in tables 9.18 and 9.19, page 160, which has been placed in the Library.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the budgets of NHS organisations have been top-sliced in 2008-09; whether the top-sliced amounts held by the strategic health authorities at the end of 2007-08 have been returned to the organisations; and if he will make a statement. [227455]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 2008-09 national health service (NHS) operating framework confirms that strategic health authorities (SHAs) may agree arrangements with the primary care trusts (PCTs) in their area which allow the voluntary transfer and lodgement of revenue resources with the SHA, provided that such transfer is within the limit of the overall SHA planned surplus. The Department does not expect SHAs to require an involuntary top slice of PCT revenue allocations.

Audited NHS accounts for 2007-08 report the net value of the top-sliced revenue resources transferred to, and paid back, by SHAs during the year, and the balance remaining with SHAs at the year-end. This information has already been placed in the Library.

NHS: Negligence

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many litigation cases were brought against his Department for clinical negligence in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much was paid out as a result. [226854]

Ann Keen: The Department has not received any litigation cases for clinical negligence. Claims of clinical negligence in the national health service are made against the NHS body providing the care.

Of the 4,593 cases formally claimed in 2007-08, as of 30 September 2008, 2,262 have been settled, with £18,217,815 being paid out in damages, £2,272,334 in defence legal costs and £7,878,866 in claimant legal costs. The NHS Litigation Authority, which handles clinical negligence cases on behalf of member organisations, provided this information. The data do not include claims made against self-employed contractors in primary care.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to raise pay levels for care workers in the NHS. [226720]

Ann Keen: NHS care workers are paid according to the Agenda for Change (AfC) system. The AfC pay system covers all directly employed NHS staff except doctors and dentists pay review body groups and very senior managers. A three-year pay deal for AfC staff is in place which provides a headline pay uplift of 2.75 per cent. for 2008-09, among the best increases in the public sector this year. The deal will be worth 2.54 per cent. in 2009-10 and 2.5 per cent. in 2010-11. These increases are in addition to year-on-year incremental increases for the vast majority of AfC staff.

NHS: Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the skills of non-medically trained NHS employees. [226775]

Ann Keen: The Department has worked with key stakeholders such as NHS Employers, Skills for Health and trade unions to develop education and career frameworks and to ensure effective use of the Joint Investment Fund that will provide up to £100 million per year of extra investment. This will be backed up by a doubling in investment in apprenticeships in the NHS.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the skills of NHS contracted staff. [226776]

Ann Keen: The Government expect that all staff possess the level of skills required to deliver high quality health care, irrespective of whether they are employed directly by the NHS or they have been contracted to deliver that service. This applies to clinical and non-clinical staff alike.

Nurses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of guidance his Department has issued to the NHS in the last 12 months on the modern matrons programme; [226299]

(2) what data his Department has gathered from NHS trusts to assess progress with the implementation of the modern matrons programme. [226300]

Ann Keen: Information about the number of modern matrons is collected centrally. This shows that there were 5,538 modern matrons in post on 6 June. No further information is collected centrally and no guidance has been issued in the last 12 months.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he expects the report of the Organ Donation Taskforce on presumed consent to be published. [227544]

Ann Keen: The Organ Donation Taskforce is currently considering its findings on the potential impact on organ donation rates of introducing an opt out system of consent. It will shortly submit its report to UK Health Ministers for consideration after which the report will be published.

Patients: Transport

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to improve the conditions under which critically ill patients are transferred between hospitals. [226847]

Ann Keen: Local health commissioners work with local hospitals, ambulance trusts and critical care networks to assess, commission and monitor the arrangements for transferring critically ill patients. We would expect that transfers follow relevant guidance from professional organisations, in particular the Intensive Care Society.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) from what date prescription charges will be abolished for all patients with long-term conditions; how much he expects this measure to cost; and how many patients per annum he expects to benefit from it; [226285]

(2) when he plans to publish the conclusions of his Department's review into the prescription charging system in England. [226288]

(3) how much he expects abolishing prescription charges for cancer patients to cost; and from which budget this funding will be taken; [226286]

(4) how many cancer patients paid prescription charges in the latest year for which figures are available. [226287]

Ann Keen: The expected cost of exempting cancer patients in England from prescription charges is around £20 million a year. This will be funded from within our existing Comprehensive Spending Review settlement.

We do not hold figures on how many cancer patients currently pay prescription charges however, we estimate this to be in the region of 250,000 people.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patients with long-term diseases will be eligible for free prescriptions under his recently announced proposals to extend eligibility for such prescriptions. [226722]

Ann Keen: As announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State in his written ministerial statement to the House on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 17ws), we have asked Professor Ian Gilmore to lead a review of prescription charges on how to implement our plans to phase in free prescriptions for those people in England with long term conditions effectively. The Government estimate that a further five million people will be exempted from paying prescription charges at a cost of between £250-£350 million a year depending on the actual numbers of such patients and the timetable for implementing these changes.

We expect to publish the findings of this review in summer 2009.

Social Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for his Department's assertion that there is likely to be a £6 billion funding gap in social care in 20 years' time. [226292]

Phil Hope: This information is available on the Care, Support, Independence website at:

www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/stakeholder-information

The article on future funding requirements for adult social care has been placed in the Library.

Social Services: Finance

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he is making in devising an independent complaints procedure for those who arrange and finance their own social care and who are currently excluded from other statutory complaints procedures. [226119]

Phil Hope: We will be seeking to legislate as soon as parliamentary time allows. In the meantime departmental officials are working with the local government ombudsman on the details of the proposed new arrangements whereby the ombudsman is given the power to handle complaints by people who fund or arrange their own adult social care services.

Tobacco

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the tobacco industry in the last 12 months. [227784]

Dawn Primarolo: During the last 12 months there have been a number of meetings between departmental officials and representatives of the tobacco industry.

These meetings are technical in nature relating to compliance with the regulation of the industry at national, European and international levels.

Trauma Audit and Research Network

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of hospitals participate in the Trauma Audit and Research Network; and what steps he plans to take to increase the number of hospitals participating. [226848]

Ann Keen: The Trauma and Audit Research Network (TARN) is an independent organisation that is not funded directly by the Department, and as such the Department does not collect data on participation rates. TARN publishes a wide range of information about their work on their website, www.tarn.ac.uk. Further information can be obtained from TARN via:

Professor Tim Coats (Chairman)
Clinical Sciences Building
Hope Hospital
Eccles Old Road
Salford
M6 8HD
(T) 0161 206 5952
(E) support@tarn.ac.uk

Trauma: Children

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of trauma cases involved children in the latest period for which figures are available. [226849]

Ann Keen: We are unable to supply the information requested as the definition of trauma is too wide to accurately supply data. Medically "trauma" can refer to any serious or critical bodily injury, wound or shock. In psychiatric terms a "trauma" may refer to an experience that is emotionally painful, distressing or shocking which often results in lasting mental and physical effects.

Wharfedale Hospital

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients Wharfedale Hospital in Leeds treated in each year since it opened in 2004. [226386]

Ann Keen: The information is not available as requested. Data on the count of hospital admissions to Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, which includes the Wharfedale Hospital, from 2003-04 to 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

	Total admissions
2006-07	196,662
2005-06	190,604
2004-05	187,404
2003-04	182,822

Notes:
Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the NHS in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been on-going improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time. *Source:* Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care: NHS Hospitals England and activity performed in the Independent Sector in England commissioned by English NHS.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Cervical Cancer

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many women under the age of 25 years were diagnosed with cervical cancer in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [227232]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many women under the age of 25 years were diagnosed with cervical cancer in each of the last five years for which figures are available [227232].

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of cancer are for the year 2005. Numbers of cases of cervical cancer for the years 2001 to 2005 for England are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cervical cancer[1] under the age of 25 years, England, 2001-05

	Number
2001	42
2002	42
2003	63
2004	48
2005	43

[1]Cervical cancer is defined as code C53 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). *Source:* Office for National Statistics.

Colorectal Cancer

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each calendar year since 1997, broken down (i) by Government region and (ii) by those aged (A) under 30, (B) 30 to 40, (C) 41 to 50 and (D) 51 to 60 years. [225704]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each calendar year since 1997, broken down (i) by Government region and (ii) by those aged (A) under 30, (B) 30 to 40, (C) 41 to 50 and (D) 51 to 60 years. [225704]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2005. Numbers of cases of bowel cancer for men and women in each calendar year since 1997, broken down (i) by Government office region and (ii) by age are given in Table 1 and Table 2 below. Ages are presented to be consistent with the standard age groups published by the Office for National Statistics (0-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59).

Table 1: Males. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer[1] by age in each Government office region, 1997 to 2005

Government office region	*Age*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
North East	Under 30	2	0	4	3	1	1	0	0	0
	30-39	8	10	10	6	8	8	7	5	9

Table 1: Males: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer[1] by age in each Government office region, 1997 to 2005

Government office region	Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	40-49	38	37	47	29	35	36	24	38	35
	50-59	127	139	127	123	135	127	140	112	136
North West	Under 30	5	6	7	3	4	5	9	8	5
	30-39	21	16	22	9	24	11	25	24	26
	40-49	81	73	87	77	73	77	83	91	97
	50-59	276	296	301	318	309	288	305	322	304
Yorkshire and the Humber	Under 30	3	8	2	3	1	0	5	5	4
	30-39	11	10	18	16	10	11	12	10	17
	40-49	64	62	68	59	47	62	61	61	67
	50-59	198	187	225	195	214	223	222	236	236
East Midlands	Under 30	2	1	2	1	3	0	4	1	7
	30-39	18	10	16	13	9	12	13	10	16
	40-49	35	47	48	46	57	39	35	61	57
	50-59	151	171	184	183	180	171	149	162	194
West Midlands	Under 30	4	8	3	2	3	4	7	4	5
	30-39	15	10	19	19	20	17	16	33	15
	40-49	75	52	53	54	52	77	66	60	51
	50-59	213	210	218	222	224	247	249	229	249
East of England	Under 30	3	4	2	3	0	0	3	6	6
	30-39	10	6	14	19	12	11	13	11	25
	40-49	57	55	50	44	37	45	63	54	73
	50-59	192	192	201	201	189	195	177	205	212
London	Under 30	7	6	6	6	8	7	8	10	9
	30-39	31	20	20	37	25	21	24	31	20
	40-49	75	76	66	52	60	64	73	60	79
	50-59	182	200	191	202	216	193	201	190	206
South East	Under 30	4	4	7	3	9	5	9	8	15
	30-39	21	18	21	23	18	18	22	22	17
	40-49	100	93	82	83	86	73	71	74	96
	50-59	275	305	273	312	291	308	282	280	318
South West	Under 30	3	2	3	3	3	11	5	6	6
	30-39	13	14	21	9	12	14	9	16	7
	40-49	61	48	48	48	50	66	57	61	45
	50-59	183	170	217	198	188	204	204	235	213

[1] Bowel cancer is defined as codes C18-C20 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
Source: Office for National Statistics.

Table 2: Females: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer[1] by age in each Government office region, 1997 to 2005

Government office region	Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
North East	Under 30	1	4	3	1	1	1	2	1	4
	30-39	4	4	2	10	9	3	7	6	8
	40-49	30	24	32	30	28	21	23	16	26
	50-59	57	72	63	81	74	78	72	74	83
North West	Under 30	9	10	2	8	5	5	8	3	8
	30-39	18	25	30	20	25	21	16	16	17
	40-49	67	63	77	65	61	49	60	69	72
	50-59	186	202	202	177	207	164	194	219	199
Yorkshire and the Humber	Under 30	0	3	5	5	0	3	2	1	2
	30-39	15	6	12	14	17	12	14	16	15
	40-49	49	37	54	49	55	41	45	47	47
	50-59	131	128	128	127	138	136	158	146	143
East Midlands	Under 30	2	1	3	4	1	4	7	2	2
	30-39	5	13	16	5	13	10	11	5	9
	40-49	49	40	24	47	34	39	47	51	38

Table 2: Females: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer[1] by age in each Government office region, 1997 to 2005

Government office region	Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	50-59	121	106	119	108	124	118	101	131	133
West Midlands	Under 30	1	2	1	2	5	5	3	5	3
	30-39	12	10	15	9	8	15	15	13	17
	40-49	53	62	54	53	47	57	50	47	55
	50-59	147	192	144	167	160	182	147	147	155
East of England	Under 30	8	2	2	2	3	3	2	6	1
	30-39	12	15	17	18	7	16	9	11	19
	40-49	44	41	53	43	51	41	42	34	62
	50-59	152	166	158	152	165	153	138	161	169
London	Under 30	2	5	5	8	6	11	8	11	11
	30-39	15	30	29	37	18	25	23	18	21
	40-49	52	51	50	62	58	72	65	61	65
	50-59	125	151	144	159	141	134	142	150	144
South East	Under 30	4	12	6	9	8	4	9	10	9
	30-39	26	16	12	15	9	23	21	30	15
	40-49	83	48	79	58	84	84	71	76	84
	50-59	193	231	211	220	215	211	209	217	244
South West	Under 30	2	3	5	3	5	6	7	7	7
	30-39	8	14	12	15	13	10	10	12	11
	40-49	39	36	49	41	50	52	42	58	62
	50-59	137	138	172	145	156	158	168	162	141

[1] Bowel cancer is defined as codes C18-C20 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Source: Office for National Statistics.

Departmental Press

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on departmental press, if he will *(a)* estimate the cost of answering the Question and *(b)* set out the cost assumptions on which that estimate is based. [225555]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested by the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) cannot be separately identified on the Cabinet Office's accounting system. To seek to identify the costs involved would require consulting individual budget holders across the Department who in turn would have to identify relevant expenditure in order to obtain a total for the Department. The Department estimates that the cost of obtaining this information would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold as stated by my hon. Friend the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury on 28 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 87WS.

Drugs: Death

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women died from drug misuse in each year since 1997. [227510]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) men and (b) women died from drug misuse in each year since 1997. (227510)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug poisoning, where any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate, for (a) males and (b) females, from 1997 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths from drug misuse,[1] males and females, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

	Male	Female
1997	1,041	271
1998	1,142	315
1999	1,321	307
2000	1,329	275
2001	1,450	356
2002	1,269	344
2003	1,118	314
2004	1,177	318
2005	1,260	348
2006	1,250	323
2007	1,287	317

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes are shown in the following table) and where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate.
[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

ICD-10	ICD-9	Description
F11-F16, F18-F19	292, 304, 305.2-305.9	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)

ICD-10	ICD-9	Description
X40-X44	E850-E858	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60-X64	E950.0-E950.5	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	E962.0	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10-Y14	E980.0-E980.5	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the employment rate was of *(a)* people, *(b)* UK citizens and *(c)* UK-born people aged over 50 years old in (i) each year since 1997 and (ii) each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [225147]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the employment rate was of *(a)* people aged over 50 years of working age *(b)* UK citizens aged over 50 years of working age and *(c)* UK-born people aged over 50 years of working age in (i) each year since 1997 and (ii) each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. (225147)

The attached table gives the employment rates of people aged between 50 and state pension age for the categories requested.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. UK citizens are defined as those who report their nationality as UK at the time of the survey.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Employment rates[1] for people aged between 50 and state pension age[2] United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

				Percentage
		UK population	UK nationals	UK born
1997	Q2	64.7	64.9	65.4
1998	Q2	65.4	65.6	66.0
1999	Q2	66.3	66.5	67.0
2000	Q2	67.0	67.2	67.6
2001	Q2	67.8	68.1	68.5
2002	Q2	68.1	68.4	68.8
2003	Q2	70.2	70.3	70.7
2004	Q2	69.9	70.1	70.5
2005	Q2	70.5	70.6	71.0
2006	Q2	70.9	71.0	71.4
2006	Q3	70.8	71.0	71.5
2006	Q4	70.8	71.0	71.5
2007	Q1	70.7	70.9	71.4
2007	Q2	71.3	71.6	72.0
2007	Q3	71.3	71.6	71.9
2007	Q4	72.0	72.2	72.6
2008	Q1	72.0	72.1	72.6
2008	Q2	72.1	72.3	72.7

[1] The employment rate is the number of people in employment as a percentage of the total number in the relevant group.
[2] Men aged 50-64 and women aged 50-59.
Note:
It should be noted that the estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of the increase in the employment of people of working age since 1997 was accounted for by *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* workers born abroad. [226634]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the increase in the employment of people of working age since 1997 was accounted for by (a) foreign nationals and (b) workers born abroad. (226634)

Between April-June 1997 and April-June 2008, foreign nationals accounted for 52 per cent of the increase in the employment of people of working age (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59). The corresponding figure for workers born abroad was 67 per cent.

Foreign nationals are defined as those who report their nationality as non-UK at the time of the survey.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in employment in the UK were *(a)* UK citizens, *(b)* citizens of other EU states and *(c)* citizens of non EU states in each year since 1978. [226635]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in employment in the UK were *(a)* UK citizens, *(b)* citizens of other EU states and *(c)* citizens of non EU states in each year since 1978. (226635)

The attached table gives the number of people in employment for the categories requested, from April-June 1995 to April-June 2008. Comparable data prior to 1995 are not available. The table excludes those whose nationality is not known.

Citizenship is defined as the nationality reported by respondents at the time of the survey.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Employment levels for people aged 16 and over, by nationality, three months ending April to June, 1995 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

			Thousand
	UK	Other EU[1] 401	Non-EU
1995	24,840		470
1996	25,074	397	473
1997	25,478	419	547
1998	25,576	465	600
1999	26,002	452	569

Employment levels for people aged 16 and over, by nationality, three months ending April to June, 1995 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	UK	Other EU[1] 401	Thousand Non-EU
2000	26,256	461	682
2001	26,427	489	725
2002	26,554	480	816
2003	26,741	518	873
2004[2]	26,860	581	922
2005	27,058	642	963
2006	27,050	732	1,144
2007[3]	26,949	989	1,154
2008[4]	27,167 *	1,085 *	1,219 *

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] EU14 comprises Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.
[3] A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
[4] Rest of world excludes UK, EU14 and A8.
[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 ≤ CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey.

Government Departments: Annual Reports

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what consideration he has given to producing a Whole of Government annual report; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [227596]

Kevin Brennan: There are no such plans at present.

Inter-departmental Migration Task Force

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Minister is responsible for the delivery of the workplan of the Inter-departmental Migration Task Force. [227221]

Kevin Brennan: The National Statistician is responsible for the delivery of the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme, which is taking forward the delivery of the Interdepartmental Migration Task Force workplan. A ministerial group co-chaired by my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), Minister for Local Government and my hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas), Minister for Borders and Immigration, monitors and provides ministerial support for the programme.

Migration: Statistics

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what consultation by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) undertook with Government departments before the ONS's revised methodology for allocating international migrants to regions and local authority areas was published on 24 April 2007. [227234]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what consultation the Office for National Statistics had with Government departments before the Office's revised methodology for allocating international migrants to regions and local authority areas was published. (227234)

Over a significant period of time prior to implementation, ONS officials had regular discussions with the key Departmental user of population and migration statistics, specifically:

The Department for Communities and Local Government, given their role with local grant funding;

The Department of Health, including representation on the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the Advisory Committee for Resource Allocation (ACRA); and

The devolved administrations.

Also, at each stage in the development and implementation of the improved methodology, we kept government departments, local authorities and other users informed. Papers were submitted for discussion at the regular meetings held with the population sub-group of Central and Local Information Partnership (CLIP). Membership of CLIP includes representatives from Government departments, as well as from local government. The proposed new methodology was first discussed by CLIP in April 2006 prior to the announcement, in August 2006, of plans to implement the revised methods and the publication of indicative figures and explanatory papers in April 2007. Presentations of the methods were made at conferences and seminars, in particular British Society of Population Studies.

ONS is now leading a cross-departmental programme of work to improve migration and population statistics that has been in place since April 2008. We liaise closely with other government departments who are members of a steering group overseeing this work. The Local Government Association is also represented on the steering group.

Through this, a series of working groups that meet regularly, seminars and workshops that are arranged to engage local stakeholders, ONS continues to liaise closely with central and local Government on the improving migration statistics programme.

Office of the Third Sector: Operating Costs

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much it cost to run the Office of the Third Sector in 2007-08. [225262]

Kevin Brennan: The administration costs for the financial year 2007-08 of the Office of the Third Sector are published as part of the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Blackpool

9. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the proposals to expand higher education provision in Blackpool. [227257]

Mr. Lammy: Blackpool is one of the areas which will benefit from our new "university challenge" policy to expand locally accessible higher education. As a result of previous decisions taken by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and other funders, there will be new opportunities through the establishment of a higher education centre supported by the University of Lancaster. I would like to wish the centre and others like it every success in their efforts to unlock the talent of the people and places they serve.

Further and Higher Education

10. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government have taken to increase the numbers of students in further and higher education. [227258]

Mr. Lammy: Government spending on higher education has increased by 24 per cent. in real terms from 1997-98 to 2008-09 to more than £8 billion a year. A record 1,156,000 places are funded in 2008-09. So far, acceptances for 2008 entry show a rise of 7 per cent. on 2007 Planned further education spending on adult skills will increase from £4.8 billion in 2007-08 to £5.3 billion by 2010-11. This will support around three million funded adult learners per year. To date, we have exceeded our Skills for Life target for 2010, and increased the number of adults in the work force qualified to level 2 to 2.1 million compared with 2001.

13. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many higher education students are studying in further education colleges. [227263]

Mr. Simon: The latest available figures show that in 2006-07, there were (provisionally) around 131,000 students studying for a higher education qualification in a further education college in England.

Final figures for 2006-07 will be available early next year.

21. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure further education college courses meet the needs of employers. [227271]

Mr. Simon: FE colleges play a valuable role in delivering Train to Gain and Apprenticeships programmes, responding to the needs of employers to ensure their employees have the skills they need to remain competitive. We are investing £18 million pounds through the World Class Skills Programme to help FE colleges to help them respond to employer demand. The Training Quality Standard for Employer Responsiveness and the National Skills Academies will also strengthen colleges' ability in this area.

Construction Industry

11. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he next expects to meet representatives of the construction industry to discuss skills levels in that industry. [227260]

Mr. Simon: Ministers in this Department are in regular touch with representatives of the construction industry about skills levels in the industry, both about immediate issues like sustaining apprenticeships, and about longer term skills needs. These meetings will continue.

Research and Development: Universities

12. **Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what support his Department has given to collaborative public-private research and development programmes in universities; and if he will make a statement. [227261]

Mr. Lammy: According to the HEBCI survey in 2008, university income from external sources is at an unprecedented level, currently £2.6 billion per annum. The Government support public-private research collaborations through the Higher Education Innovation Fund, which will give £396 million to support knowledge transfer over the three years of the current round, the Technology Strategy Board and all seven of the Research Councils. For example, EPSRC spends 40 per cent. of its budget on collaborative research.

Apprenticeships

14. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government plan to take to ensure that apprentices do not lose their jobs in the current economic situation. [227264]

Mr. Simon: To help apprentices through the current economic situation, we have set up a clearing house for construction apprentices which has already placed two-thirds of those referred with a new employer or training provider.

We will examine urgently whether this model can be developed in other sectors. And we will look at additional ways of providing apprenticeships, including the employment of apprentices by Group Training Associations; and giving the best employers support to train more apprentices than they themselves need in order to equip smaller companies in their supply chain.

15. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding his Department is providing to support apprenticeships in the construction trades in 2008-09. [227265]

Mr. Simon: Funding for apprenticeships is planned to increase by almost a quarter between 2007-08 and 2010-11, to over £1.1 billion. We do not allocate funds on a sectoral basis. We are concerned about the position of apprentices in the construction industry and just a few weeks ago, my right hon. Friend announced a new taskforce with major employers and unions to explore how we expand construction apprenticeships and improve training opportunities. We also announced the creation

of a clearing house to match redundant construction apprentices with employers in their region to enable them to finish their training.

16. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government are taking to ensure that young people are aware of available apprenticeship opportunities. [227266]

Mr. Simon: The current Education and Skills Bill requires schools to provide impartial careers education. Information about apprenticeships is included in 14-19 area prospectuses. We are also building a new apprenticeships national vacancy matching service which will enable employers to advertise vacancies for young people wanting apprenticeships to consider the opportunities and make application online.

The Apprenticeships Draft Bill contains provision to ensure that schools inform young people about apprenticeships. We are also examining whether it is possible to achieve this outcome without primary legislation through other mechanisms such as statutory guidance.

Small Businesses

17. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government are taking to improve the skills training available to employees of small businesses. [227267]

Mr. Simon: The Government are investing significant funding through the Train to Gain programme, which by 2010-11 will rise to over £1 billion a year. 61 per cent. of learners that accessed a Train to Gain funded course in 2006/07 were employed by employers of up to 250 employees.

In addition, the leadership and management programme for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Train to Gain supported over 2,400 employers in 2007/08. We are increasing investment in this programme to £30 million per year for the next three years and have widened eligibility to cover organisations with between 10 and 250 employees.

We will ensure that the support that we provide for all businesses is fit for purpose in the current economic climate, and will be setting out measures for that shortly.

Skills Needs

18. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will publish regular forecasts of the future skills needs of the economy by sector. [227268]

Mr. Simon: The UK Commission for Employment and Skills, which started work in April, is working to ensure that—through its annual skills assessment and regular skills projections—we continue to improve the information available to Government and employers about future skills needs.

Toilet Facilities: Universities

19. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will hold discussions with university authorities on the provision of toilet facilities in universities. [227269]

Mr. Lammy: We have no plans for any specific discussions with university authorities on this subject. Universities are independent and autonomous bodies and how they choose to designate their facilities is a matter for them.

Student Finance

20. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will review the funding available to students working towards an equivalent or lower qualification. [227270]

Mr. Lammy: Student support is generally targeted at first time entrants to higher education because the Government believe it is right to give priority for public funding to those without an HE qualification. Our policy on equivalent level qualification is consistent with this view. But it provides extra support for institutions teaching existing students, and for subjects of strategic importance; and there are more general opportunities for equivalent and lower level students to study courses which attract institutional funding such as foundation degrees and employer co-funded provision.

Apprentices: Small Businesses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to offer apprenticeships. [227756]

Mr. Simon: There are a number of proposals in 'World-class Apprenticeships' aimed at supporting and encouraging small and medium-sized business to take on apprentices.

These included the recently launched sector growth pilots. These pilots are designed to trial a range of support including wage and training subsidies and while this is not exclusively for small businesses, they will be encouraged to bid for this funding. We are also developing proposals set out in World Class Apprenticeships to support SMEs to form their own group training associations to support the delivery of apprenticeships.

We are committed to revising the current apprenticeship blueprint and to support Sector Skills Councils to develop Apprenticeship frameworks to be more flexible and responsive. This includes work with employers to encourage and enable them to submit their own frameworks for funding, by drawing from a Sector Skills Council 'bank' of qualifications.

We are also working with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, who recently surveyed SMEs to establish how the new National Apprenticeship Service can meet better the needs of employers. The survey focused on, although was not limited to, reducing the administrative burden on them. Together we will consider how best to take forward the recommendations coming out of the survey.

Arts: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects his Department to publish research quantifying the economic benefits of the creative industries. [227179]

Mr. Lammy: The commitment in "Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy" to establish the contribution of innovation to value added in the creative industries is being taken forward jointly by DIUS and DCMS.

A research project to look at how value is generated in creative industries and how they might spread value to other parts of the economy is now under way.

We expect to publish a report on the research findings in spring 2009.

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226526]

Mr. Lammy: All DIUS commissioned advertising is assessed for cost effectiveness by pre and post tracking research that measures the situation or issue before and after the advertising has run. All advertising campaigns are commissioned through the Central Office of Information (COI) to ensure the quality of the media planning and to exploit the bulk media discounts that COI negotiate with media owners.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the total cost was of each contract. [224953]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' (DIUS) media monitoring is supplied by Energy Data Service Ltd. (EDS) and the Media Monitoring Unit (MMU).

DIUS was formed on 28 June 2007 as a result of the machinery of government changes. Information on the costs of contracts for the provision of media monitoring services to DIUS is therefore only available for the current financial year.

Available figures for the annual costs of each contract are as follows:

EDS

2008/09: £26,269 (to date)

MMU

2008/09: £42,125 (annual subscription)

For much of its business, the Department operates through a number of arms length bodies including 20 non-departmental public bodies and other agencies. It is the responsibility of each body to manage its contracts and costs. Therefore the Department does not hold the information requested centrally and there would be a disproportionate cost to gather the information requested.

Higher Education

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many expressions of interest have been made to the Higher Education Funding Council for England for new higher education centres under the Department's University Challenge initiative; and what the timetable is for assessing such bids. [227430]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England is still in the process of analysing the responses to its consultation paper on our new "University Challenge" policy. After the consultation period ends, the council will conclude that analysis, which will also cover any expressions of interest. However, the consultation document made clear that there is not a fixed bidding timetable. Rather, HEFCE can receive proposals at any time, and there is an ongoing approval process. The council's regional teams are already working with a number of institutions in the early stages of developing proposals. Local authorities and other bodies which wish to be involved with the development of new HE centres will need to develop links with a local educational partner and at least one higher education institution.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding streams are available to universities on application to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Higher Education Funding Council for England. [227423]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not make payments directly to universities and so there are no such funding streams.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) makes the great majority of its payments to universities in the form of block grant.

In addition to this funding it currently operates the following special funding streams: the Strategic Development Fund, which supports individual projects to achieve change in the HE sector at a strategic level, such as lifelong learning networks, New University Challenge developments, and inter-university collaborations; the Leadership, Governance and Management Fund, which supports staff development across the HE sector; the Revolving Green Fund, which supports initiatives to bear down on carbon emissions on a spend-to-save basis; and the Shared Services Feasibility Studies, which delivers efficiency gains in the HE sector via the use of shared services.

HEFCE will also be making the payments to institutions under the Government's scheme to promote voluntary giving to universities, in which we have made available £200 million to match-fund private donations worth at least £400 million

Higher Education: Teachers

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many university lecturers have left the profession in each of the last five years. [227426]

Mr. Lammy: Neither the Department nor the Higher Education Funding Council for England collects this data.

Innovation: Public Sector

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of recent trends in innovation in the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [227754]

Mr. Lammy: In November DIUS will publish the first annual innovation report which will include examples of public sector innovation from across Government. Work is ongoing to develop better metrics for innovation, including in the public sector and these will be used to assess performance and trends in future reports. In early 2009 the NAO will publish a report on how Government are currently managing public sector innovation with a set of recommendations.

Science

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to increase public interest in science. [227259]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS manages a portfolio of funded activities to support our ongoing commitment to public engagement in science. These include: National Science and Engineering Week, the BA festival of science, the Sciencewise-Expert Resource Centre for public dialogue, STEMNET and the UK Resource Centre for Women.

DIUS is currently consulting on a vision for science and society with a key element focused on increasing public interest in science. The consultation closes on October 17.

Students: Loans

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of students who applied for a student loan received it after the agreed date in each of the last five years. [227424]

Mr. Lammy: The first payments of income-contingent student loans are made after the university or college confirms that the student is in attendance. On current performance, the Student Loans Company (SLC) then initiates payment within one working day of receipt of the confirmation in all cases. Payments are made through an automated system into bank accounts, which takes three working days from initiation.

A payment may be made after the start of the course if the student's application has been received late and did not allow sufficient time for processing. A change in student's circumstances can also affect payment where re-assessment is required.

SLC monitors payment performance against a target set in a service level agreement with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and reported in the SLC Annual Report. The target is for 95 per cent. or more of payments to be initiated within one working day of confirmation of attendance, and 99 per cent. within two days. In 2007-08 100 per cent. were initiated within one working day.

The following table shows performance given in the annual reports. The target has changed over the years.

	Measure	*Target (percentage)*	*Actual performance (percentage)*
2007-08	Initiated in 1 working day	95	100
	Initiated in 2 working days	99	100
2006-07	Initiated in 1 working day	95	98.2
	Initiated in 2 working days	99	100
2005-06	Initiated within month	99	99.4
2004/05 academic year	Loans paid 1-14 days	90	94.9
	Loans paid 1-17 days	100	95.4
2003/04 academic year	Loans paid 1-14 days	90	91.9
	Loans paid 1-17 days	100	94.7

Union Learning Representatives Programme

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to promote and develop the union learning representatives programme. [227255]

Mr. Simon: Union learning representatives have a key role to play in raising the demand for learning and skills, especially for workers with low skill levels and those with literacy and numeracy problems. With their real-life experience and credibility in the workplace, union learning reps inspire trust and foster ambition in others, giving them the confidence to seek new ways to improve their skills.

That is why we will continue to support the Union Learning Fund and unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation, to develop and promote the work of union learning reps. We have increased the funding for union learning from £2 million in 1998 to over £21 million in 2008—so that by 2010 there will be 22,000 trained union learning reps helping over 250,000 workers into learning each year.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds: Hunting

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy on bird rearing and shooting is; when that policy was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [226562]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government's policies towards the game bird industry are consistent with the 2005 rural manifesto which stated that

"We will work with the relevant bodies to ensure that country sports are protected while ensuring high standards of environment protection, animal welfare and safety".

We have no plans to restrict the sport of shooting.

Game birds reared for sporting purposes are covered by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. This Act makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal, and also contains a duty of care so that people responsible for an animal must take such steps as are reasonable to ensure its welfare.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the executive agencies for which he is responsible are disabled; and what the average salary in his (i) Department and (ii) executive agencies is of (A) full-time disabled staff, (B) full-time non-disabled staff, (C) part-time disabled staff and (D) part-time non-disabled staff; [220188]

(2) when he will reply to Question 220188, on staff, tabled on 15 July. [226917]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 551-657W.

New Forest: Environment Protection

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the draft New Forest Recreation Management Strategy, if he will publish the evidence upon which the New Forest National Park Authority concludes that many people who live locally and use the New Forest take its tranquillity and high environmental quality for granted. [227624]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I understand that the New Forest National Park Authority's evidence for this is already in the public domain, in the form of the following publications:

Survey of Recreation Visits to the New Forest National Park by Tourism South East with Geoff Broom Associates, prepared on behalf of the Countryside Agency in September 2005;

Interim statement of the special qualities for the New Forest National Park, paper number NFNPA 92 06, presented to the National Park Authority on 18 May 2006;

Future Matters consultation—a joint consultation between New Forest District Council, Changing Lives Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership) and the National Park Authority, which took place in December 2006;

Statement of special qualities for the New Forest National Park, paper number NFNPA 191 07 presented to the National Park Authority on 28 June 2007.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which consultants were employed by the New Forest National Park Authority to advise on the draft New Forest Recreation Management Strategy; whether the process of appointment was subject to competitive tender; and if he will place a copy of the terms of reference given to the consultants in the Library. [227626]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I understand that the consultants employed were 'Land Use Consultants', based in Bristol and that the contract for this work was subject to competitive tender. I will arrange for a copy of the invitation to tender and the specification for the development of the National Park Plan and the Recreation Management Strategy to be placed in the Library.

Hill Farming

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many letters he has received on the Uplands Entry Level Scheme; and how many of those opposed its introduction. [225433]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We received 48 letters responding to our informal document on Uplands Entry Level Scheme (Uplands ELS), which was published shortly after the Secretary of State's statement in July confirming that an uplands strand of the Entry Level Stewardship scheme would replace the Hill Farm Allowance in 2010. This document sought views on specific design aspects of Uplands ELS, and so did not solicit views on support or opposition for its introduction. A summary of the responses received, together with the outcome of regional meetings with stakeholders on Uplands ELS, will be published shortly.

Horses: New Forest

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the draft New Forest Recreation Management Strategy, if he will publish the evidence justifying the proposed policy of the New Forest National Park Authority that the use of horses for recreation in the New Forest needs to be restricted. [227625]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I understand there is no proposed policy to restrict the use of horses in the New Forest and there is unrestricted access for horses on the Open Forest.

The New Forest National Park Authority has published a number of policies and proposals in its draft Recreation Management Strategy and draft National Park Plan that are the subject of a public consultation until 14 November 2008. All interested parties are free to make their views known to the Authority and to have those views fully considered.

Decisions on these issues are for the Authority to take. It is an independent Authority operating within the local government framework and legislation.

Ivory

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the decision to make available to China stockpiled ivory for onward sale; and what assessment he has made of the potential effect of this decision on elephant populations. [226487]

Huw Irranca-Davies: At the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in July, the UK voted to approve China as a trading partner in the one-off sale of legal ivory held by four southern African nations. The UK

and Bulgaria reflected the combined EU position, which was reached based on evidence that China had fulfilled the strict conditions for trading partner status as laid down in the Annotations to the CITES Appendices and agreed by CITES Parties.

The UK is supporting two programmes (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)) which will monitor the effect of the sale on illegal poaching and trade, and is represented on the Steering Group monitoring their work.

National Forest Estate

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for a repositioning exercise of the National Forest Estate to better deliver public policy objectives. [226677]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have no current plans to reposition the public forest estate. Any significant repositioning would require a full appraisal of the estate in the light of the new Strategy for England's Trees Woods and Forests, published last year, and the Delivery Plan, which has been prepared by the Forestry Commission and Natural England and is due for publication soon.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria are used on the National Forest Estate for the identification of sites for disposal, retention and purchase. [226678]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Assets (woodlands and other property) that are making a relatively limited contribution to our forestry policy objectives and where there are limited public benefits are sold. The resulting funds are reinvested in forestry policy priorities such as community woodlands around our cities, improved recreation facilities and habitat restoration. This reinvestment is often made in projects where there is additional support and funding from partners.

Land purchases occur where opportunities arise to enable the Forestry Commission to secure high levels of public benefit. For example, the purchase of freeholds that will increase public access or the creation of new community woodlands close to where people live.

National Rights of Way Casework Team

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many representations the National Rights of Way Casework Team has received since its inception; what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average period between the receipt of a representation and the issue of a decision on that representation has been; how many decisions have been issued more than 12 months from the date of receipt of the representations; and what the longest time is a representation has remained without the issue of a decision. [224637]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The National Rights of Way Casework Team has received 71 representations (direction requests) since its inception. The requested information on representation handling times can be provided only by reviewing all the 71 case files and therefore can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any full-time equivalent members of staff in his Department are working on projects relating to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games. [221868]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department is currently applying less than one full-time equivalent member of staff to our work on legacy planning for 2012. This input is expected to rise over the coming years. Staff at the Environment Agency and Natural England are also involved in work related to the Games.

New Forest: Parking

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which car parks under the control of the New Forest National Park Authority are being considered for designation as dog-free car parks; and what evidence there is to justify such a designation in each case. [227622]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I understand that the New Forest national park authority does not control any car parks in the New Forest. If the concept of 'dog free' car parks is developed it would be implemented by the landowner or operator, as has been the case where the Forestry Commission has introduced a few temporary closures during the breeding season for ground nesting birds.

The authority has published a number of proposals in its draft Recreation Management Strategy, including on the issue of dog-free car parks and responsible dog-walking, that are the subject of a public consultation until 14 November 2008. All interested parties are free to make their views known to the authority and to have those views fully considered.

Decisions on these issues are for the authority to take. It is an independent authority operating within the local government framework and legislation.

Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221480]

Hilary Benn: The core Department's supplier of postal services is Royal Mail. In financial year 2007-08, and from information held centrally, the Department incurred costs of some £4.89 million with Royal Mail.

This compares with £5.21 million for the financial year 2006-07. On figures to date for financial year 2008-09, annual expenditure with Royal Mail will total a little over £4 million—a further substantial reduction in expenditure obtained though efficiencies and commercial discussions.

Postal services from Royal Mail attract mailsort, postal and volume discounts.

DEFRA's policy is to reduce the number of printed publications, especially leaflets that are produced and posted to stakeholders.

Primates: Pets

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many illegally held pet primates have been seized in each year since 2000; and where such seized primates were subsequently kept. [225076]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The enforcement and administration of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 is a matter for local authorities. Central records are not kept on seizures of illegally held pet primates.

Trapping

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the Government awarded the contract for research into the safety and efficacy of the use of snares to the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust. [225715]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The research contract was awarded to the Central Science Laboratory (CSL) and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust with CSL as the lead partner. The two organisations successfully bid for the contract in response to an advertised open competition. The bid from these contractors was considered to offer the best value for money and provide the best solution. This conclusion was reached with the help of independent reviewers who are experts in relevant fields.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* contract details relating to the proposed arrangement between the Game and Wildlife Trust and his Department on research into the use of snares. [225717]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The terms of reference for the research were advertised in the form of a research specification for an open competition. The specification will be placed in the House Library.

Details of the contract will also be placed in the House Library.

Warm Front Scheme

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to ensure that householders are invoiced separately for the parts, labour, travel and management fees associated with Warm Front Scheme work undertaken for them. [222011]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

In order to avoid potential confusion, Warm Front customers are only invoiced for the costs of works required that exceed the grant maxima (£2,700 for gas heating and £4,000 for oil). Currently, contribution letters provide customers with the costs of any previous Warm Front measures to the property (which are deducted from the new grant), installer labour costs (harmonised by region) and costs for any required materials (set centrally across the country).

As regards travel expenses, individual jobs do not attract different charges depending on their distance from the contractor.

The scheme's management fees are not taken from the grants of individual Warm Front customers, but rather from the central grant fund made available to the scheme.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the level of start-up funding in academies compared with Fresh Start schools. [224670]

Jim Knight: Start-up grants for academies are designed to enable a new body—the academy trust—to effect a complete educational transformation for the pupils. To this end, start-up grant provides for substantial new resources in terms of books, equipment and materials. If the academy is not full, start-up grant also helps meet the overhead costs of the senior and middle management teams, so that these can be of a size and quality to carry through that transformation, and various transitional costs during the period in which new buildings are being constructed. It also meets necessary expenditure on transforming the ethos of an academy such as uniform and induction costs. The length of time over which start-up grant is payable depends on the rate of pupil build-up and building completion.

The level of start-up grant for academies is therefore, in most cases, substantially higher than that for a Fresh Start school, which has a more limited purpose. Giving poorly performing schools a Fresh Start can be a very successful way to raise standards. In some cases, this may be the appropriate short-term action, prior to a long term solution such as an Academy or a Trust. Giving a school a fresh start means closing and reopening it on the same site under the normal school reorganisation procedures. Schools requiring a Fresh Start are allocated revenue and capital funding on the basis of need based on the size and phase of the school. Capital resources to support a Fresh Start of a school will involve either a re-build of the school or development of suitable teaching facilities needed at neighbouring school to enable closure of the school needing a fresh start.

Academies: Governing Bodies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of governors on the governing body of an academy who (i) represent and (ii) are appointed by the principal sponsor; and if he will make a statement. [227502]

Jim Knight: There are variations in the overall number of governors of Academies. However the sponsors of an Academy (excluding the LA, where the LA is a co-sponsor) must appoint a majority of the Governing Body members. If there are non-LA Co-Sponsors as well as Lead Sponsors the Lead Sponsor will appoint at least one more Governor than the non-LA Co-sponsor.

If an Academy is to be jointly sponsored, both sponsors will appoint the same number of Governors but collectively appoint a majority.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many consultations were completed by his Department in each year since 1997. [227440]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The figures for DCSF and its predecessors the Department for Education and Employment and Department for Education and Skills are as follows:

	Consultations completed
1997 (from 1 August)	2
1998	3
1999	3
2000	28
2001	63
2002	34
2003	40
2004	35
2005	56
2006	30
2007	67
2008 (to date)	37

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total cost was of the bonuses paid through the education maintenance allowance for submitting course work on time in the latest period for which figures are available; when the bonus was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [225416]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library. EMA bonuses were included in the pilots and have been an integral part of the scheme since its beginning in 1999.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 15 October 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions that asked; "what the total cost was of the bonuses paid through the Education Maintenance Allowance for submitting course work on time in the latest period for which figures are available; when the bonus was introduced" and "how many local authorities allow people enrolled on an entry to employment programme to apply for education maintenance allowance online; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the online application process".

The total Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) bonus payments paid out during the academic year 2007/8 amounted to £68.2m. Bonus payments are paid based on an agreement between the individual learning provider and the individual learner and upon the learner achieving the aims of this agreement. It is not possible to say how many learners achieved a bonus for submitting coursework on time. Bonus payments were introduced at the same time as EMA was rolled out nationally in 2004/5.

From 2008/09 all eligible learners who enrol on an E2E program are entitled to receive EMA on a non-income assessed basis which means they receive the maximum amount of £30 award.

The Learning and Skills Council contracted Liberata to introduce an online application system this year for the first time. We regret that a delay occurred to the launch of the new online learner application system because of some issues with the system in testing, and wanted to ensure that it was absolutely right before making it available to learners.

It is important to note that, as in previous years, learners are able to apply for EMA by paper application forms that are available from schools, colleges, connexions services, learning providers and by calling the helpline.

The number of applications received is broadly in line with our expectations for the year.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which companies bid for the education maintenance allowance contract which was awarded to Liberata; and by what criteria such bids were assessed. [226047]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The LSC contracts with Liberata UK Ltd to carry out the helpline, assessment and payment function. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 15 October 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions that asked; "Which companies bid for the education maintenance allowance contract which was awarded to Liberate; and by what criteria such bids were assessed."

Over 30 companies showed an expression of interest but only two progressed to competitive dialogue. Capita and Liberata bid for the contract to administer the Learner Support Programme, of which Education Maintenance Allowance is a part.

The LSC carried out the procurement process in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 using competitive dialogue. This allowed the LSC to work closely with both bidders over a number of months ensuring that there was understanding of requirements and potential solutions on both sides. At the end of this both bidders were asked to submit a proposal and that was evaluated against an agreed evaluation model. The key criteria were quality and cost, which included making assessments of their operational delivery capability, technical solutions, project and programme management, proposals for handling transition arrangements, value for money, and sensitivity to increases in volumes of applications.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in West Lancashire constituency have received education maintenance allowance since its inception. [225758]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 15 October 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked; "How many people in West Lancashire constituency have received Education Maintenance Allowance since its inception."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

In the first year of national roll out EMA was available to all 16 year olds across England and to 17 and 18 year olds in former pilot areas (young people who are 19 are entitled to receive EMA in certain circumstances). In 2005/06 EMA roll out continued and EMA was available to all 16 and 17 year olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA was available to all 16, 17 and 18 year olds nationally.

EMA take-up for Lancashire Local Authority area during each academic year since inception is as follows:

	Number
2004-05	7,081
2005-06	10,564
2006-07	12,995
2007-08	13,396
2008-09	[1]4,120

[1] To end September 2008

EMA Take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 is available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

Families

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under 11 years of age live in single-parent families in *(a)* Bassetlaw constituency and *(b)* England. [225344]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October2008:.

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many children under 11 years live in single-parent families in (a) Bassetlaw and (b) England. (225344)

Using the Annual Population Survey household dataset for January to December 2007, the figures to the nearest thousand, are as follows:

Area	*Number of children under 11 in single-parent families in 2007*
England	1,383,000
Bassetlaw constituency	3,000

The APS household datasets are designed for analyses at the family and household levels and for person-level analyses involving the characteristics of the families and households in which people live. More information can be found here:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15150

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children taking GCSEs in *(a)* grammar schools, *(b)* comprehensive schools, *(c)* secondary modern schools and *(d)* independent schools were awarded five or more GCSEs, broken down at (i) A* to A and (ii) A* to B grades in the most recent year for which figures are available. [224526]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 6 October]:* The information broken down at A*-C can be found in table 3 of the following Statistical First Release (SFR):

DCSF: GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

Further breakdown of grades can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Special Educational Needs

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what formats GCSE examinations are available for children *(a)* with a (i) visual and (ii) hearing impairment and *(b)* who are dyslexic; and how many times each such format has been used in the last three years. [221705]

Jim Knight: The regulation of public examinations in England is the responsibility of Ofqual. Ofqual requires awarding bodies to provide examination papers in appropriate formats to ensure candidates with disabilities have access to examinations.

It is the responsibility of the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) to coordinate these formats on behalf of the awarding bodies.

Details of these formats are published in the JCQ guidance "Regulations and Guidance Relating to Candidates who are Eligible for Adjustments in Examinations". This guidance is available online at

http://www.jcq.org.uk.

The following table sets out how many times these formats have been approved for children with *(a)* (i) visual and (ii) hearing impairment and *(b)* who are dyslexic in the last three years.

Number of requests approved for	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Reader	55,640	67,390	80,798
Scribe (including voice-activated computer)	28,324	34,821	40,275
Computer/word processor	14,222	16,996	21,713
Extra time (more than 25 per cent. extra time)	3,383	2,393	2,489
Alternative venue	1,582	1,948	1,993
Use of signer	942	613	952

Number of requests approved for:	2005	2006	2007
Practical assistant	814	953	1,049

Notes:
1. These figures cover AQA, Edexcel and OCR only; the three awarding bodies based in England.
2. These figures are for the number of awarding-body approved arrangements rather than the number of candidates. An individual candidate may require a number of arrangements for each examination they take and they may take examinations from more than one awarding body.

Home Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the total number of children under 16 years of age who are home educated in England. [226441]

Jim Knight: We have made no estimate of the number of children who are home educated in England.

Pre-school Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in the 10 per cent. *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived local authority areas were working securely within each of the 13 assessment scales of the Foundation Stage Assessment Profiles in each year since 2005. [226005]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* Information is only available for seven of the 13 assessment scales and for children resident in the 30 per cent. most deprived areas. This is shown for 2007-08 in the tables which have been placed in the House of Commons Library. Further information on the proportion of children working securely within the additional six assessment scales and for earlier years can be compiled and checked only at a disproportionate cost.

The most recent information on the Foundation Stage Profile was published in the Statistical First Release 25/2008 "Foundation Stage Profile results in England 2007/08" on 18 September 2008, which is available on the Department's website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000812/index.shtml.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in *(a)* Basingstoke, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* each region were working securely within each of the 13 assessment scales of the Foundation Stage Assessment Profiles in each year since 2005. [226006]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The available information for 2005 to 2008 is shown in the tables which have been placed in the House of Commons Library. Information is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

The most recent information on the Foundation Stage Profile was published in the Statistical First Release 25/2008 "Foundation Stage Profile results in England 2007/08" on 18 September 2008, which is available on the Department's website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000812/index.shtml.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* adequacy of the funding for the extension of the free entitlement to nursery care to all two-year-olds nationwide and *(b)* the ability of the private, voluntary and independent sector to meet the costs of these places. [227441]

Beverley Hughes: We are currently working with our delivery partners to develop plans to extend the free early education entitlement for two-year-olds. 63 local authorities are currently delivering up to 15 hours of free provision to the most deprived two-year-olds. £100 million funding is available to fund this pilot until April 2011. The child care strategy announced in June and to be published by the end of this year, will set out next steps. The funding for the next stages of the child care strategy will be taken in the light of the wider fiscal position.

Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils received more than *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12, *(d)* 13, *(e)* 14 and *(f)* 15 or more fixed period exclusions in a 12-month period in each of the last five years; [226443]

(2) how many pupils have been given more than three fixed period exclusions in the last three years. [226444]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of pupils who have received fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time for the school year 2003/04. The available information is shown in the tables. Information on pupils who have received more than *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12, *(d)* 13, *(e)* 14 and *(f)* 15 fixed period exclusions can be provided only at disproportionate costs. Due to changes in the underlying data collection, information for the school year 2005/06 is only available for secondary schools.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: number of times pupils were excluded for a fixed period. England, 2003/04

Number of fixed period exclusions per pupil	Number of pupils	Percentage
1	130,410	65
2	37,870	19
3	16,290	8
4	8,120	4
5	4,180	2
6	2,180	1
7	1,160	1
8	660	0
9	400	0
10	200	0
More than 10	310	0
Total	201,780	100

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: number of times pupils were excluded for a fixed period. England, 2003/04

Number of fixed period exclusions per pupil	Number of pupils	Percentage
Percentage of school population	—	2.63

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes non-maintained special schools.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: number of times pupils were excluded for a fixed period. England, 2004/05

Number of fixed period exclusions per pupil	Number of pupils	Percentage
1	138,790	63
2	42,510	19
3	18,830	9
4	9,400	4
5	4,890	2
6	2,880	1
7	1,450	1
8	860	0
9	490	0
10	290	0
More than 10	440	0
Total	220,840	100
Percentage of school population	—	2.90

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes non-maintained special schools.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey.

State funded secondary schools[1]: number of times pupils were excluded for a fixed period. England, 2005/06

Number of fixed period exclusions per pupil	Number of pupils	Percentage
1	118,660	62
2	37,490	19
3	16,850	9
4	8,840	5
5	4,810	2
6	2,680	1
7	1,450	1
8	860	0
9	460	0
10	310	0
More than 10	370	0
Total	192,750	100
Percentage of the school population	—	5.76

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, CTCs and academies.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: number of times pupils were excluded for a fixed period. England, 2006/07

Number of fixed period exclusions per pupil	Number of pupils	Percentage
1	138,390	61
2	43,220	19
3	20,080	9
4	10,630	5
5	6,050	3
6	3,460	2
7	2,050	1
8	1,200	1
9	770	0
10	490	0
More than 10	830	0
Total	227,160	100
Percentage of the school population		3
Number of pupils who subsequently received a permanent exclusion in 2006/07[4]	6,080	53

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[4] The number of pupils who received a permanent exclusion in 2006/07 after previously being excluded for a fixed period by the same school during the 2006/07 school year.
[5] The percentage of all pupils with a fixed period exclusion who later were permanently excluded during 2006/07.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were given more than one fixed period exclusion in a 12 month period in each of the last five years; and how many such pupils were eligible for free school meals. [226445]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of pupils who were given more than one fixed period exclusion and their eligibility for free school meals can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The available information on the number of fixed period exclusions (including any multiple exclusions) and free school meal eligibility is shown in the following tables and covers the school years 2005-06 and 2006-07. Information for 2004-05 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

State funded secondary schools[1, 2]: Number of fixed period exclusions by free school meal eligibility 2005-06, England

	State funded secondary schools[2]	
	Number of exclusions	Exclusions per 100 of the school population[3]
Fixed period exclusions[4]		
Pupils eligible for free school meals	105,530	23.04
Other pupils	238,280	8.25
All pupils[5]	348,380	10.46

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both CTCs and academies. Information is as reported by schools.
[3] The number of exclusions per 100 of the school population (excluding dually registered pupils) as at January 2006.
[4] For 2005-06 a change in the underlying method of data collection means that data on fixed period exclusions from primary and special schools is not available.
[5] Totals include 4,600 fixed period exclusions with unclassified free school meal eligibility.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2,3]: Number of fixed period exclusions by free school meal eligibility, England 2006-07

	Number of exclusions	*Exclusions per 100 of the school population[4]*	*Number of exclusions*	*Exclusions per 100 of the school population[4]*	*Number of exclusions*	*Exclusions per 100 of the school population[4]*	*Number of exclusions*	*Exclusions per 100 of the school population[4]*
Fixed period exclusions								
Pupils eligible for free school meals	21,020	3.21	109,940	24.75	7,360	25.61	138,320	12.27
Other pupils	24,250	0.70	251,450	8.74	9,060	14.98	284,760	4.46
All pupils[5]	45,730	1.11	363,270	10.94	16,600	18.56	425,600	5.66

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both CTCs and Academies. Information is as reported by schools.
[3] Includes both maintained special and non-maintained special schools.
[4] The number of exclusions per 100 of the school population (excluding dually registered pupils) as at January 2007.
[5] Totals include 2,530 fixed period exclusions with unclassified free school meal eligibility.

Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

Pupils: Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which 20 maintained schools had the greatest *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of pupils (i) excluded and (ii) permanently excluded for (A) physical assault against an adult, (B) physical assault against a pupil and (C) bullying in the most recent year for which figures are available; [226036]

(2) which 20 maintained schools issued the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest number of (i) permanent and (ii) fixed-term exclusions in the most recent academic year for which figures are available; and how many such exclusions were issued by each such school. [226035]

Jim Knight: The information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of school funding per pupil for each primary and secondary school in Yeovil constituency in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; what the average funding level for all English schools is for each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [227032]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Yeovil constituency is not available.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2007-08 to 2008-09 for Somerset local authority and England are provided in the following table. Since 2006-07, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the main source of school funding. As the DSG is distributed through a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil, a primary/secondary split is not available.

	2007-08 DSG plus grants	*2008-09 DSG plus grants*
Somerset	4,130	4,350
England	4,530	4,690

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10. Price Base: Cash.
4. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
5. The actual revenue funding that individual schools in England receive via their school budget shares is a matter for individual local authorities to decide locally through their own local funding formulae (subject to satisfying the minimum funding guarantee for schools from 2004-05 onwards). Consequently, the amount of money allocated to each school in England depends very much on the individual local authorities' own policy for funding their schools. Different authorities retain varying amounts of funding centrally to spend on behalf of their schools while others chose to give schools more autonomy over how they spend their money by devolving more funding to the individual schools.

School Meals

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools which do not have a kitchen capable of providing hot meals. [228057]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and Learners on 15 October, *Official Report*, column 1295W.

Schools: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of mainstream maintained schools did not enter any pupils for *(a)* a GCSE and *(b)* an A-level in history in each year since 2005; [227387]

(2) how many and what percentage of mainstream maintained schools did not enter any pupils for *(a)* a GCSE and *(b)* an A-level in geography in each year since 2005. [227388]

Jim Knight: 145 mainstream maintained schools did not enter any pupils for an A-level in history in 2006/07. This was 8 per cent. of mainstream maintained schools.

264 mainstream maintained schools did not enter any pupils for an A-level in geography in 2006/07. This was 15 per cent. of mainstream maintained schools.

Figures for GCSE and other years are not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Schools: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of school responses to the questions on e-safety in Ofsted's 2008 Self Evaluation Form; [227188]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the snapshot report of school responses to question 4b of the self evaluation form provided to his Department by Ofsted. [227189]

Jim Knight: Ofsted has conducted a snap-shot assessment of schools' responses to questions of e-safety in the self-evaluation form, in response to the report of the Byron Review. It will publish this shortly and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Schools: Local Authorities

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in secondary schools attended their nearest maintained school in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by each local authority; and if he will make a statement. [224671]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the independent evaluation of the Making Good Progress pilot will be published; and if he will make a statement. [227722]

Jim Knight: The Making Good Progress pilot is being externally evaluated by PricewaterhouseCoopers and a final evaluation report is due in the autumn of 2009. PricewaterhouseCoopers will also be publishing an interim report on the first year of the pilot later this year.

Specialist Schools: Languages

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mainstream maintained secondary schools are designated as specialist language colleges. [227389]

Jim Knight: 352 maintained schools in England are designated as having a language specialism, of which 220 are specialist language colleges, 20 are specialist schools which have languages combined with another specialism and 112 are other specialist schools which have languages as a second specialism.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 17 October 2008

JUSTICE

Care Proceedings: Expert Evidence

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the results of the review of family law cases following the Cannings judgment; and what steps he is taking to increase confidence in medical expert witnesses in child protection cases. [225315]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Following the statement made by the then Minister for Children my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) on 23 February 2004 (in response to the Court of Appeal's judgment in the appeal against the conviction of Angela Cannings) the then Department for Education and Skills issued Circular LAC (2004)5 to local authorities on 25 February 2004. This asked local authorities "to consider those cases that are affected by the Attorney General's review".

The Association of Directors of Social Services subsequently undertook a survey of local authority cases. The results were placed in the Library on 17 June and 16 November 2004. The then Minister for Children made a statement to the House on 17 June summarising the results of the first stage of the survey, and on 16 November the second stage of the survey.

The Legal Services Commission is working with the Department of Health to pilot key proposals from the Chief Medical Officer's 2006 report—"Bearing Good Witness: Proposals for reforming the delivery of medical expert evidence in family law cases". Once implemented, these important reforms will help ensure that the family courts in England have access to the best information when making decisions that will affect the lives of some of our most vulnerable children.

Driving Offences

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many driving bans were served concurrently with prison sentences in each region of England and Wales in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* 2008 to date. [227144]

Maria Eagle: Although the court proceedings data held by my Department provide information on the sentencing of individuals for individual offences, including whether they are disqualified from driving as a result of those offences, it does not hold information on whether each person is already banned from driving when sentence is passed.

Family Courts

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps the Government has taken to improve public accountability of the family courts. [227310]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice has consulted twice about improving the accountability and openness of family courts. Central to this openness has been recognition of the need for better provision of information about the work of the family courts. There are clear benefits to the public having access to a record of the decisions courts have made, which reflects the public interest in the due administration of justice.

In July 2007 we announced our intention to pilot the provision of written judgments when a final order is made in certain family cases. The courts in the pilot areas will for the first time routinely produce for county court and High Court cases, a written record of the court's decision, i.e. a hard copy of a judgment. Family Proceedings Courts will continue to provide the written reasons, which they are already required to do. The judgments or written reasons will be: (1) issued to the parties, (2) retained on the court file for the child to access on reaching adulthood, should they choose to do so; and (3) made anonymous and published online for the public to view.

Providing judgments to the parties is intended to help those who have been through proceedings to understand why decisions were reached. Publication of anonymised judgments online is intended to improve perceptions of the family courts within society.

The Government are committed to improving the transparency and accountability of family courts, while protecting those most vulnerable in society. My Department intends to make further detailed announcement on the pilot soon.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department expects to publish its substantive response to its consultation on Confidence and confidentiality: openness in family courts - a new approach. [227311]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1031W, to the hon. Member for South Derbyshire (Mr. Todd).

Judiciary: Females

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its objectives in respect of the proportion of women in the judiciary. [227034]

Mr. Straw: Some progress is being made in improving the number of women judges in England and Wales. As of 1 April 2008, 19.03 per cent. of the judiciary were female—an increase from 2001's figure of 14.1 per cent. At District Judge level and below, women account for 25.6 per cent. of the judiciary. In the senior judiciary, the recent appointment of five female High Court judges will bring the total number of female judges in the High Court and above to 20, the highest ever number, out of a total of 164 in the senior judiciary (High Court, Court of Appeal, Heads of Division and Law Lords).

There remains a long way to go before we have a judiciary that reflects society in gender terms. In recognition of this fact, all measures that could help to improve diversity in the judiciary are currently being considered. This will ensure that we maintain the highest possible standards of those appointed.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the change in the percentage of eligible women barristers entering the judiciary has been since the date of his predecessor's 2004 consultation on increasing diversity in the judiciary. [227059]

Mr. Straw: Prior to 2006-07, no formal statistics were compiled on the pool of people eligible for a given judicial appointment in England and Wales. Moreover, the eligibility criteria vary widely between different types of judicial post. For these reasons, statistics on the number of women barristers eligible for judicial appointment are not available.

The following table presents statistics for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2007-08 on:

women appointed to the judiciary of England and Wales as a proportion of all appointees (fee-paid or salaried)

women barristers appointed to the judiciary of England and Wales as a proportion of all barrister appointees (fee paid or salaried).

Comparable statistics are not available for 2006-07, as this was a transitional year during which responsibility for judicial appointments was passed from the former Department for Constitutional Affairs to the Judicial Appointments Commission. Comparisons over time should be made with caution, as the set of judicial posts to which appointments are made will vary from year to year.

	All appointments			*Barrister appointments*		
	Total	*Women*	*Women as percentage of total*	*Total*	*Women*	*Women as percentage of total*
2004-05	294	86	29	160	43	27
2005-06	259	110	42	80	44	55
2007-08	458	156	34	178	50	28

Source:
Judicial Appointments annual reports, Judicial Appointments Commission.

During the period covered by this table, the overall proportion of women serving in the Judiciary of England and Wales increased from 15.8 per cent. (at 1 April 2004) to 19.0 per cent. (at 1 April 2008). These figures include both salaried and fee-paid judicial office holders in the courts, but do not include members of the Tribunals judiciary.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department plans to answer the letter dated 31 July sent by the hon. Member for Billericay to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Access to Justice on the subject of Britain's nuclear test veterans. [227939]

Bridget Prentice: I replied to the hon. Member's letter on 14 October 2008. I apologise for the delay.

Powers of Attorney

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the waiting period for the processing of an application for a lasting power of attorney; and if he will make a statement. [227393]

Bridget Prentice: Since the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 in October 2007 the Public Guardian is responsible for registration of Lasting Powers of Attorney. One of the key safeguards of the registration process is the requirement for a statutory six-week waiting period for objections against registration to be made.

Representations were made to the Secretary of State for Justice by the President of Solicitors for the Elderly in June 2008, and by the President of the Law Society in July 2008, that the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) was failing to issue the required notice to start the waiting period in a timely manner.

The OPG is now issuing the notice required to start the waiting period within its published target of 10 working days. Where there are problems with an application for Lasting Power of Attorney, applicants are similarly notified within 10 working days.

The OPG has received representations generally about Lasting Powers of Attorney and will be looking at whether the current registration processes are proportionate and effective during the review of the implementation of the MCA launched earlier this month.

Prisons

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* daily, *(b)* weekly and *(c)* monthly (i) percentage and (ii) total turnover of inmates was in each prison establishment (A) in each of the last 10 years and (B) in each month in each of the last three years. [227118]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the turnover of prisoners in each prison establishment is not available. However, during 2006, the last year for which the information is available, there were 90,000 receptions under immediate custodial sentence into all prison establishments in England and Wales. In the same year, there were 78,500 discharges from sentences.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many custodial sentences of *(a)* less than one month, *(b)* between one and three months, *(c)* between three and six months and *(d)* between six and 12 months were handed down in each of the last 10 years, broken down by offence. [227117]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Statistics for 2007 will be published at the end of November.

Number of persons sentenced[1] for various offence groups by sentence length, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of persons

		Sentence length			
	Offence description	*Less than 1 month*	*1 month and up to and including 3 months*	*Over 3 months and up to and including 6 months*	*Over 6 months and up to and including 12 months*
1997	Violence against the person	321	1,816	2,159	1,848
	Sexual offences	13	126	213	402
	Burglary	182	2,121	2,698	2,737
	Robbery	2	115	204	327
	Theft and handling stolen goods	2,341	8,168	4,594	2,235
	Fraud and forgery	193	1,078	841	708
	Criminal damage	102	359	106	85
	Drug offences	235	812	908	1,334
	Other indictable offences	919	2,097	1,613	1,319
	Indictable motoring offences	28	316	612	451
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	1,142	4,474	2,046	3
	Summary motoring offences	955	7,136	6,223	—
1998	Violence against the person	379	2,150	2,439	2,001
	Sexual offences	13	108	274	383
	Burglary	177	2,114	2,790	2,840
	Robbery	1	124	249	364
	Theft and handling stolen goods	3,069	9,837	4,997	2,127
	Fraud and forgery	228	1,288	1,064	714
	Criminal damage	110	396	137	112
	Drug offences	313	1,112	1,070	1,448
	Other indictable offences	972	2,347	1,800	1,384
	Indictable motoring offences	26	308	594	414
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	1,301	5,076	2,393	3
	Summary motoring offences	965	6,980	6,507	—
1999	Violence against the person	339	2,174	2,538	1,925
	Sexual offences	14	116	269	384
	Burglary	157	2,047	2,842	2,706
	Robbery	1	101	194	411
	Theft and handling stolen goods	3,726	11,657	5,544	1,995
	Fraud and forgery	258	1,229	1,156	685
	Criminal damage	129	421	157	116
	Drug offences	365	1,218	1,031	1,230
	Other Indictable offences	944	2,300	1,850	1,290
	Indictable motoring offences	28	302	629	481
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	1,565	5,603	2,567	8
	Summary motoring offences	996	7,335	7,426	—
2000	Violence against the person	360	1,897	2,824	2,208
	Sexual offences	12	89	252	352
	Burglary	175	1,520	2,970	2,687
	Robbery	1	26	320	507
	Theft and handling stolen goods	3,890	12,385	6,315	1,971
	Fraud and forgery	244	1,176	1,096	570
	Criminal damage	116	346	187	124
	Drug offences	309	982	923	1,103

Number of persons sentenced[1] for various offence groups by sentence length, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of persons

		Sentence length			
	Offence description	*Less than 1 month*	*1 month and up to and including 3 months*	*Over 3 months and up to and including 6 months*	*Over 6 months and up to and including 12 months*
	Other indictable offences	1,028	2,219	1,999	1,545
	Indictable motoring offences	28	292	694	505
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	1,393	4,976	2,923	3
	Summary motoring offences	919	7,151	8,011	—
2001	Violence against the person	333	1,612	2,708	2,349
	Sexual offences	16	105	239	349
	Burglary	142	1,345	2,825	2,286
	Robbery	1	11	384	596
	Theft and handling stolen goods	3,914	12,725	6,455	1,732
	Fraud and forgery	238	1,131	1,206	613
	Criminal damage	115	355	169	117
	Drug offences	307	861	823	1,101
	Other indictable offences	1,004	1,912	1,907	1,418
	Indictable motoring offences	13	287	778	580
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	1,316	4,777	2,928	3
	Summary motoring offences	1,009	7,330	8,608	—
2002	Violence against the person	340	1,684	2,658	2,273
	Sexual offences	27	118	236	382
	Burglary	146	1,430	2,852	2,348
	Robbery	2	13	259	605
	Theft and handling stolen goods	4,332	13,735	6,590	1,844
	Fraud and forgery	253	1,074	1,221	593
	Criminal damage	128	351	144	124
	Drug offences	308	784	698	950
	Other indictable offences	1,233	1,799	1,890	1,570
	Indictable motoring offences	20	294	870	713
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	1,382	5,043	3,105	5
	Summary motoring offences	936	7,076	8,896	—
2003	Violence against the person	359	1,557	2,548	2,194
	Sexual offences	35	114	233	360
	Burglary	156	1,432	2,694	1,922
	Robbery	3	12	237	536
	Theft and handling stolen goods	4,098	12,286	6,133	1,609
	Fraud and forgery	256	1,041	1,360	571
	Criminal damage	123	362	166	105
	Drug offences	321	687	597	896
	Other indictable offences	1,441	1,889	2,008	1,636
	Indictable motoring offences	33	234	966	762
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	1,441	4,952	3,065	2
	Summary motoring offences	866	7,044	9,491	3
2004	Violence against the person	349	1,711	2,667	2,269
	Sexual offences	19	144	258	421
	Burglary	136	1,282	2,530	1,779
	Robbery	2	11	233	591
	Theft and handling stolen goods	3,805	10,526	5,500	1,619
	Fraud and forgery	239	975	1,490	719
	Criminal damage	137	355	167	113

Number of persons sentenced[1] for various offence groups by sentence length, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of persons

		Sentence length			
	Offence description	*Less than 1 month*	*1 month and up to and including 3 months*	*Over 3 months and up to and including 6 months*	*Over 6 months and up to and including 12 months*
	Drug offences	241	572	528	773
	Other indictable offences	2,510	2,150	2,135	1,844
	Indictable motoring offences	15	230	872	792
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	1,629	5,669	3,902	2
	Summary motoring offences	783	6,176	8,210	—
2005	Violence against the person	388	1,666	2,850	2,474
	Sexual offences	24	85	205	349
	Burglary	156	1,101	2,242	1,531
	Robbery	5	18	282	484
	Theft and handling stolen goods	3,887	9,181	4,764	1,396
	Fraud and forgery	227	820	1,094	1,506
	Criminal damage	156	374	163	110
	Drug offences	265	560	648	714
	Other indictable offences	2,557	2,144	2,095	1,961
	Indictable motoring offences	19	173	766	735
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	1,788	5,858	4,418	5
	Summary motoring offences	648	4,992	7,229	—
2006	Violence against the person	318	1,492	2,742	2,341
	Sexual offences	13	98	202	302
	Burglary	142	1,059	2,198	1,519
	Robbery	1	9	346	626
	Theft and handling stolen goods	3,996	8,452	4,641	1,296
	Fraud and forgery	192	599	931	1,753
	Criminal damage	176	383	182	108
	Drug offences	337	564	566	711
	Other indictable offences	2,387	2,020	1,904	1,620
	Indictable motoring offences	12	131	573	690
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	1,998	5,931	4,626	6
	Summary motoring offences	550	3,852	5,511	1

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will reassess his Department's proposals to merge the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal with the Care Standards Tribunal and the Mental Health Review Tribunal in England; what assessment he has made of the likely effects of this merger on parents of children with special educational needs; and if he will make a statement. [227236]

Bridget Prentice: I am responding as Minister responsible for Tribunals. I do not consider that a reassessment is necessary. It is proposed that the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) will cease to exist as a stand-alone body and become part of the First-Tier Tribunal in accordance with the provisions of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 (the "Act"). The Government consider that the Act provides the most appropriate statutory framework for maintaining strong and independent tribunals and for improving the services they provide to users.

Groups representing the interests of the parents of children with special educational needs have been consulted during the development of the proposals to transfer the SENDIST jurisdiction into the Health, Education and Social Care (HESC) Chamber of the First-Tier Tribunal. Rules of procedure for the Chamber have been drawn up with the foil involvement of SENDIST's judiciary and members.

The tribunal is committed to the ethos that it has always had, namely of keeping the interests of the child at the forefront of its procedures and decision making.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of cases going to the

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal concerned children with autism over each of the last five years; in what proportion of these cases the applicant was successful; and how many local authorities conceded the case before the case reached the hearing. [227572]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the outcomes of special educational needs (SEN) appeals for children where autism was recorded at registration as the main or only SEN. Decided cases are those where a tribunal hearing takes place and a decision is issued. The decided cases can then be broken down into those that have either been successful in whole or in part and those that were dismissed. In this table those that were dismissed include those that were struck out. Withdrawn cases are those where the appellant decides to discontinue their appeal before a hearing takes place or decision is issued. Conceded cases are those where the local authority meet the requirements of the appeal before a hearing takes place or a decision is issued.

	Decided	*Percentage*	*Upheld*	*Dismissed*	*Withdrawn*	*Percentage*	*Conceded*	*Percentage*	*Total*
2003-04	238	38	202	36	298	47	94	15	630
2004-05	264	37	218	46	338	48	107	15	709
2005-06	287	38	249	38	318	42	155	20	760
2006-07	293	38	245	48	305	40	176	23	774
2007-08	284	32	242	42	371	42	235	26	890

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many disability discrimination cases concerning children with autism spectrum disorders went to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal in each of the last five years; and in what proportion of these the applicant was successful. [227578]

Bridget Prentice: The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) does not record autism as a type of disability. As a result, no Disability Discrimination Act claims have been recorded. The following table shows the outcomes of all SEN appeals. Withdrawn cases are those where the appellant decides to discontinue their appeal before a hearing takes place or decision is issued. Conceded cases are those where the local authority meets the requirements of the appeal before a hearing takes place or a decision is issued.

	Decided	*Percentage*	*Upheld*	*Dismissed*	*Withdrawn*	*Percentage*	*Conceded*	*Percentage*	*Total*
2003-04	1,197	35	930	267	1,528	45	662	20	3,387
2004-05	1,147	36	879	268	1,370	43	695	22	3,212
2005-06	1,038	32	832	206	1,260	39	920	29	3,218
2006-07	1,045	32	841	204	1,258	38	968	30	3,271
2007-08	872	27	691	181	1,215	38	1,087	34	3,174

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Deer: New Forest

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of deer in the New Forest National Park; and whether it is the policy of the National Park Authority to impose restrictions on the deer population. [227960]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There is no overall estimate of the deer numbers in the New Forest National Park and the authority has no policy for the management of deer numbers in the park. However, the Forestry Commission is responsible for the management of 47 per cent. of the park area and carries out an annual visual census of deer on its land. These records date back to 1960 and the figures for 2008 are

Fallow: 1,422;

Roe: 437;

Red: 117; and

Sika: 93.

These visual census figures will underestimate the total number of deer in the area and a corrected figure is used when the Forestry Commission sets its annual cull level in accordance with its deer management plan.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information technology projects initiated by his Department and its predecessors have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221713]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following three major core DEFRA IT projects have been terminated prior to completion within the last five years. Details of projects conducted within core DEFRA only have been included where there have been write-off costs as a result of closing the project. Details of other smaller IT projects could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost to the Department.

Catalyst Project

Catalyst was designed to provide an Electronic Data and Records Management system for DEFRA. The total expenditure from inception to termination was £12.6 million. This included costs of a large pilot and of preparing for the wider programme, which was not rolled out.

Phoenix IT Project

Phoenix was designed to handle licences for protected species covered by international conventions. The total expenditure from inception to termination was £3,998,807.

Customer Information Programme

The Customer Information Programme was designed to enable DEFRA to hold improved customer information. The total expenditure was £9,691,000.

New Forest National Park Authority

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people are employed by the New Forest National Park Authority; and how many of those are resident within the boundary of the National Park. [228014]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The New Forest National Park Authority employs some 65 (full-time equivalent) staff. DEFRA holds no information on how many live inside or outside the National Park boundary.

Tourism: New Forest

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will require the New Forest National Park Authority to extend the deadline for consultation on the draft Recreation Management Strategy. [228015]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This is a matter for the New Forest National Park Authority which I understand has announced an extension of the consultation period to Friday 14 November.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate the New Forest National Park Authority has made of the number of people *(a)* resident in and *(b)* holidaying in Christchurch constituency who visit the New Forest annually; and what consultation has been carried out with Christchurch residents on the draft Recreation Management Strategy. [228016]

Huw Irranca-Davies: These are matters for the New Forest National Park Authority.

However I understand its draft Recreation Management Strategy says 29 per cent. of day visitors come from Dorset (Tourism South East 2004-05 survey) and that, in addition, the survey suggests 9 per cent. of 'local day visitors from home' come from 'Highcliffe, Mudeford and Christchurch'.

I also understand that the authority mailed documents to Burton and Hurn parish councils, Christchurch borough council and Dorset county council, and has since responded to numerous requests for documents from the Christchurch area.

WALES

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226811]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has not used recruitment consultants to recruit staff. During the last five years external recruitment only occurred in 2006-07 and cost £17,240.92.

The Wales Office has no executive agencies.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Manpower

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people were employed by Arts Council England in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2007-08 in (i) the Chief Executive's office, (ii) the Chairman's office, (iii) press and public affairs, (iv) finance and resources, (v) business assessment and planning, (vi) finance, (vii) information, (viii) office services, (ix) personnel, (x) combined arts, (xi) drama, (xii) dance, (xiii) film, video and broadcasting, (xiv) literature, (xv) music, (xvi) touring, (xvii) visual arts, (xviii) arts and disability and (xix) policy and research. [223882]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been provided by Arts Council England (ACE) and is set out in the table. Job titles provided by ACE do not correspond exactly with those in the question, but where they differ, ACE has allocated staff with the most relevant job description to the definitions in the question.

Heads		*1997-98*	*2007-08*
Core	Advocacy and Communications - Communications	8	49
	Advocacy and Communications - Enquiries	—	10
	Advocacy and Communications - Events	—	1
	Advocacy and Communications - Marketing	2	3
	Advocacy and Communications - Media Relations	7.5	4.5
	Advocacy and Communications - Public Affairs	13	2.5
	Advocacy and Communications - Publishing	—	2
	Arts - Combined Arts	24.5	11.5
	Arts - Crafts	12.5	4
	Arts - Dance	20.5	18
	Arts - Drama	24	
	Arts - Film Video and Broadcasting	33	10
	Arts - Literature	22	24.5
	Arts - Music	24	15
	Arts - Performing Arts	31.5	45
	Arts - Touring	12.5	0.5
	Arts - Visual Arts	40.5	46.5
	CEO	34	6
	CEO - Chairman's Office	2	—
	CEO - Regional ED's Office	—	19

Heads		1997-98	2007-08
	Policy and Research	7	7
	Resource development	49	119
	Resource Development - Arts and Diversity	2.5	42
	Resource development - Business assessment and Planning	8	8
	Resource Development - Education and Training	19	19
	Resource Development - Lottery	87.5	14
	Resources - Directorate	22	9
	Resources - Finance	36	56
	Resources - HR	11	15.5
	Resources - IT	17.5	18
	Resources - Legal Services		3
	Resources - Office Services	28.5	18.5
Core Total		599.5	601
Specific project	2012 Project	—	3
	Arts Award	—	1
	Arts Training South West	3	—
	Artsmark	—	3
	Commissions North	—	1
	Commissions North	—	2
	Contemporary Music Network	—	3
	Creative Industries	—	4
	Creative Partnerships	—	142
	Cultural leadership programme	—	4
	Decibel	—	9
	Own Art	—	3
	Public Art South West	2	2
	Schools Arts Projects	—	1
	Take it away	—	1
	Young People at Risk	—	2
	Young People's Theatre	—	1
Specific project Total		5	182
Grand Total		604.5	783

Arts: Further Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has commissioned research on the extent to which further education institutions are equipping students with the skills needed to help them make a contribution to the creative economy. [227186]

Barbara Follett: My Department has not commissioned any direct research in to the extent to which further education institutions are equipping students with the skills they need to help them make a contribution to the creative economy.

However, in order to meet commitment 4 of Creative Britain: New talents for the New Economy, my Department has commissioned research into the landscape of employer engagement in higher education subjects closely related to the creative industries. The findings of this research, due to report in summer 2009, will be used to demonstrate how to forge stronger links between higher education institutions, further education colleges, creative professionals, the creative and cultural industries and the wider community.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what balances his Department held with *(a)* other central Government Departments and *(b)* local authorities at the end of each financial year since 1997. [225695]

Barbara Follett: The table sets out the Department's debtor and creditor balances with central Government Departments and local authorities since 2003. Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) did not require disclosure of these balances in earlier years and it would incur disproportionate cost to obtain them.

£000

	Debtor balances		Creditor balances	
	Government Departments	Local authorities	Government Departments	Local authorities
2007-08	4,562	314	36,092	344
2006-07	3,769	139	38,141	143
2005-06	11,026	512	24,183	1,814
2004-05	2,846	535	38,509	2,153
2003-04	4,307	23	55,633	6,119

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213694]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department carried out a refurbishment in excess of £0.5 million in 2006-07. A BREEAM assessment was applied. The provisional result is very good.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on staffing in each year since 1997 in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms. [225697]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's staffing costs in cash and real terms are shown in the table, using 2007-08 as the base year.

£000

Financial year	Staff costs in cash terms	Staff costs in real terms
2007-08	26,040	26,040
2006-07	24,860	25,584
2005-06	22,191	23,458

£000

Financial year	Staff costs @ cash terms	Staff costs in real terms
2004-05	19,814	21,396
2003-04	18,657	20,703
2002-03	17,238	19,683
2001-02	17,889	21,066
2000-01	20,972	25,287
1999-2000	20,227	24,736
1998-99	18,632	23,246
1997-98	10,726	13,721

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses was paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226502]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department and its agency, The Royal Parks, do not routinely maintain statistics on performance of invoice payments analysed by size of businesses. This information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, the proportion of undisputed invoices for goods and services procured from all suppliers paid within 30 days of receipt by the Department in 2007-08 was 98.4 per cent.

The Royal Parks' performance on similar basis was 96.3 per cent. for 2003-04, the latest year for which information is readily available. Invoice payment performance information relating to later years can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226808]

Andy Burnham: The Department and its agency, the Royal Parks, do not separately identify the cost of recruitment consultants from other recruitment costs such as advertising. The total amount spent on recruitment including external advertising and on recruitment consultants in each of the last five financial years is shown in the following table.

£

2003-04	88,670.89
2004-05	34,931.46
2005-06	131,133.02
2006-07	276,315.13
2007-08	148,474.98

The following recruitment consultants have been employed over the last five financial years:

Capita (2005-06)

Whitehead Mann (2005-06)

Odgers (2006-07 and 2007-08)

Taylor Bennett (2007-08).

Sports: Young People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government plans to take to encourage more young people to participate in Olympic sports. [225391]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government are working with a range of partners to get more people more active and encourage participation among young people in a range of physical activities including Olympic Sports. Following the publication of Sport England's new strategy, Sport England is working with 46 sports to develop funding submissions for the period 2009-13, which will set out ways in which those sports can contribute to a world-class community sports system in the UK. The 46 sports include all the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Sports, and as part of the funding submissions sports will be asked to set out proposals for the talent development pathways.

Those sports able to demonstrate an ability to deliver against the talent development outcome will be commissioned to do so. Sport England officers have been guiding sports through the commissioning process, offering them significant technical input into the production of their funding submissions. This is to ensure that all sports fully understand the process and articulate as clearly as possible the potential of their sport to deliver against Sport England's strategic outcomes.

Sport England has also recently made awards totalling £4.5 million to support the Playground to Podium programme. This programme will provide a framework for people with a disability to benefit from high quality physical education in schools and high quality coaching and performance environments in the community. This will lead on to the Paralympic World Class Programmes for those athletes who have the ability and the desire.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Sponsorship

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games has had with the International Olympic Committee's worldwide partners on their involvement in the London 2012 Olympics. [227613]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has a Client Services team in place which leads on the relationship with all domestic and worldwide partners for 2012. The team has regular contact with each partner on a range of issues, including how to activate their sponsorship in the run-up to the Games in 2012. Many partners also work directly with departments in LOCOG

in those areas where their people, products and services will support the delivery of the Games.

In addition, I have had introductory meetings with some of the domestic and worldwide partners.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* asylum claimants and *(b)* their dependants of each nationality have been granted leave to remain in the UK through (i) the 1998 backlog exercise, (ii) the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise, (iii) the legacy exercise and (iv) discretionary leave to remain since 1997. [226120]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows:

(i) The following tables show the number of principal asylum applicants who have been granted leave to remain in the UK through the pre-1996 asylum application backlog exercise (referred to in the question as the 1998 backlog exercise) by nationality during 1999 and 2000. The backlog clearance exercise ran for these two years only.

Information on dependants granted leave to remain in the UK through the backlog exercise is not available by nationality and can be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. Total figures for principal applicants including dependants granted exceptional leave under the backlog exercise were 15,195 and 14,045 in 1999 and 2000 respectively.

(ii) For information on the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise, I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) gave on 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1298W.

UKBA is no longer reporting on the performance of the Family ILR Exercise. The small number of remaining cases are being processed with other legacy cases, not as a separate workstream, and will be reported on as part of normal business.

(iii) Information on the legacy exercise by nationality is not available and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

(iv) Discretionary leave to remain has only been granted since April 2003. For information on the numbers granted discretionary leave to remain from April 2003 to 2006, I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) gave on 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1298W. 2007 figures on the discretionary leave to remain can be found in tables 4.1 and 4.2 of the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf

Further National Statistics on asylum are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

		Decisions					
		Cases considered under normal procedures					
	Applications received[a]	*Total decisions*		*Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum*		*Not recognised as a refugee but granted exceptional leave*	
Nationality	*Number*	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]
Europe							
Albania	1,310	230	(100)	25	(12)	*	(0)
Czech Republic	1,790	275	(100)	*	(0)	–	(0)
FRY	11,465	7,750	(100)	6,290	(92)	85	(1)
Poland	1,860	545	(100)	*	(0)	–	(0)
Romania	1,985	440	(100)	5	(1)	*	(0)
Russia	685	305	(100)	*	(2)	5	(6)
Turkey	2,850	2,055	(100)	85	(22)	15	(3)
Ukraine	775	110	(100)	*	(1)	–	(0)
Other Former USSR	2,640	675	(100)	10	(2)	5	(1)
Other Former Yugo	2,715	305	(100)	50	(21)	5	(2)
Other	200	595	(100)	15	(6)	5	(2)
Total	28,280	13,230	(100)	6,480	(67)	120	(1)
Americas							
Colombia	1,000	395	(100)	5	(2)	5	(2)
Ecuador	610	165	(100)	–	(0)	–	(0)
Other	420	155	(100)	*	(3)	15	(18)
Total	2,025	715	(100)	5	(2)	15	(4)
Africa							
Algeria	1,385	905	(100)	475	(71)	30	(5)
Angola	545	405	(100)	20	(24)	40	(41)

		Decisions					
		Cases considered under normal procedures					
	Applications received[4]	Total decisions		Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum		Not recognised as a refugee but granted exceptional leave	
Nationality	Number	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]
Dem. Rep. Congo	1,240	1,345	(100)	15	(15)	45	(40)
Ethiopia	455	260	(100)	20	(31)	5	(12)
Gambia	30	80	(100)	•	(6)	–	(0)
Ghana	195	1,685	(100)	–	(0)	5	(3)
Ivory Coast	190	265	(100)	–	(0)	–	(0)
Kenya	485	790	(100)	15	(3)	5	(1)
Nigeria	945	1,725	(100)	–	(0)	5	(1)
Rwanda	820	295	(100)	20	(10)	60	(26)
Sierra Leone	1,125	820	(100)	5	(2)	280	(69)
Somalia	7,495	350	(100)	130	(42)	55	(18)
Sudan	280	195	(100)	40	(43)	5	(3)
Tanzania	280	170	(100)	•	(3)	•	(0)
Uganda	420	255	(100)	5	(5)	15	(20)
Zimbabwe	230	115	(100)	–	(0)	–	(0)
Other	2,510	1,060	(100)	35	(5)	185	(27)
Total	18,435	10,720	(100)	785	(18)	740	(17)
Middle East							
Iran	1,320	415	(100)	55	(37)	20	(13)
Iraq	1,800	745	(100)	315	(43)	320	(43)
Other	1,045	260	(100)	45	(27)	15	(9)
Total	4,165	1,420	(100)	415	(39)	355	(34)
Asia							
Afghanistan	3,975	1,295	(100)	15	(1)	1,180	(92)
Bangladesh	530	615	(100)	•	(0)	5	(2)
China	2,625	470	(100)	5	(2)	5	(1)
India	1,365	945	(100)	•	(0)	10	(1)
Pakistan	2,615	1,250	(100)	25	(2)	15	(1)
Sri Lanka	5,130	2,630	(100)	20	(1)	10	(0)
Other	1,225	155	(100)	•	(3)	5	(4)
Total	17,465	7,355	(100)	65	(1)	1,225	(21)
Nationality not known	785	285	(100)	65	(55)	15	(11)
Grand total	71,160	33,720	(100)	7,815	(37)	2,465	(12)

		Decisions							
		Cases considered under normal procedures							
		Refusals							
	Total refused		Refused asylum and exceptional leave after full consideration		Refused on safe third country grounds		Refused on non-compliance grounds	
Nationality	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]
Europe								
Albania	175	(87)	80	(40)	80	(40)	15	(6)
Czech Republic	275	(100)	230	(84)	10	(4)	30	(11)
FRY	460	(7)	85	(1)	235	(3)	140	(2)
Poland	520	(100)	475	(91)	•	(–)	40	(8)
Romania	345	(99)	140	(41)	70	(20)	135	(39)
Russia	55	(92)	35	(56)	15	(21)	10	(15)
Turkey	290	(75)	135	(34)	145	(37)	10	(3)
Ukraine	80	(99)	40	(48)	25	(33)	15	(17)
Other Former USSR	465	(97)	380	(79)	40	(9)	45	(10)
Other Former Yugo.	180	(78)	150	(64)	25	(12)	5	(2)
Other	220	(92)	200	(84)	15	(5)	5	(3)
Total	3,065	(32)	1,950	(20)	660	(7)	450	(5)

Decisions

Cases considered under normal procedures

Refusals

Nationality	*Total refused*		*Refused asylum and exceptional leave after full consideration*		*Refused on safe third country grounds*		*Refused on non-compliance grounds*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*[4]	*Number*	*Percentage*[4]	*Number*	*Percentage*[4]
Americas								
Colombia	155	(96)	135	(83)	15	(9)	5	(4)
Ecuador	135	(100)	10	(7)	125	(93)	–	(–)
Other	60	(80)	55	(72)	5	(4)	5	(4)
Total	350	(94)	200	(53)	145	(38)	10	(2)
Africa								
Algeria	160	(24)	75	(12)	60	(9)	25	(4)
Angola	35	(35)	*	(1)	30	(31)	5	(3)
Dem. Rep. Congo	50	(45)	15	(12)	30	(26)	5	(6)
Ethiopia	35	(57)	5	(9)	25	(47)	*	(2)
Gambia	15	(94)	15	(94)	–	(–)	–	(–)
Ghana	130	(97)	115	(86)	*	(1)	15	(10)
Ivory Coast	75	(100)	65	(89)	5	(5)	5	(5)
Kenya	495	(96)	470	(91)	10	(2)	15	(3)
Nigeria	780	(99)	655	(83)	20	(3)	105	(13)
Rwanda	150	(65)	70	(31)	10	(4)	70	(29)
Sierra Leone	120	(30)	40	(10)	15	(3)	65	(16)
Somalia	120	(39)	5	(1)	75	(25)	40	(14)
Sudan	50	(54)	30	(35)	15	(16)	5	(3)
Tanzania	30	(97)	25	(80)	5	(13)	*	(3)
Uganda	55	(75)	50	(68)	*	(1)	5	(5)
Zimbabwe	105	(100)	105	(100)	–	(–)	–	(–)
Other	465	(68)	320	(47)	55	(8)	90	(13)
Total	2,875	(65)	2,075	(47)	360	(8)	445	(10)
Middle East								
Iran	75	(50)	15	(10)	55	(36)	5	(4)
Iraq	100	(14)	5	(1)	90	(12)	5	(1)
Other	110	(64)	60	(35)	40	(25)	5	(4)
Total	285	(27)	80	(8)	185	(18)	15	(2)
Asia								
Afghanistan	90	(7)	20	(2)	60	(5)	5	(–)
Bangladesh	375	(98)	315	(83)	50	(13)	10	(3)
China	200	(97)	155	(75)	25	(13)	15	(8)
India	750	(99)	655	(86)	60	(8)	35	(5)
Pakistan	990	(96)	885	(86)	65	(6)	40	(4)
Sri Lanka	1,945	(99)	1,700	(86)	205	(10)	40	(2)
Other	70	(93)	35	(51)	20	(29)	10	(14)
Total	4,415	(77)	3,775	(66)	480	(8)	160	(3)
Nationality not known	40	(34)	35	(29)	–	(–)	5	(5)
Grand total	11,025	(52)	8,110	(38)	1,830	(9)	1,085	(5)

Decisions

Backlog clearance exercise

Nationality	*Granted asylum or exceptional leave under backlog criteria*		*Refused under backlog criteria*		*Applications withdrawn*	*Applications outstanding at end of year*
	Number[6, 7]	*Percentage*[5]	*Number*[6, 8]	*Percentage*[5]		
Europe						
Albania	30	(90)	5	(10)	5	n/a
Czech Republic	*	(100)	–	(–)	15	n/a
FRY	875	(96)	40	(4)	n/a	n/a
Poland	20	(73)	5	(27)	40	n/a
Romania	45	(50)	45	(50)	10	n/a
Russia	190	(78)	50	(22)	n/a	n/a
Turkey	1,520	(91)	150	(9)	40	n/a

	Decisions					
	Backlog clearance exercise					
	Granted asylum or exceptional leave under backlog criteria		Refused under backlog criteria			
Nationality	*Number*[6, 7]	*Percentage*[5]	*Number*[6, 8]	*Percentage*[5]	*Applications withdrawn*	*Applications outstanding at end of year*
Ukraine	25	(86)	5	(14)	n/a	n/a
Other Former USSR	120	(91)	10	(9)	75	n/a
Other Former Yugo.	60	(79)	15	(21)	30	n/a
Other	315	(88)	40	(12)	50	n/a
Total	3,195	(90)	370	(10)	265	n/a
Americas						
Colombia	215	(92)	20	(8)	5	n/a
Ecuador	25	(93)	*	(7)	5	n/a
Other	70	(84)	15	(16)	20	n/a
Total	310	(90)	35	(10)	30	n/a
Africa						
Algeria	205	(88)	30	(12)	40	n/a
Angola	260	(83)	55	(17)	15	n/a
Dem. Rep. Congo	1,155	(94)	75	(6)	40	n/a
Ethiopia	190	(95)	10	(5)	*	n/a
Gambia	40	(64)	20	(36)	5	n/a
Ghana	1,415	(91)	135	(9)	20	n/a
Ivory Coast	155	(83)	30	(17)	10	n/a
Kenya	210	(78)	60	(22)	25	n/a
Nigeria	765	(82)	175	(18)	45	n/a
Rwanda	55	(85)	10	(15)	10	n/a
Sierra Leone	400	(96)	15	(4)	10	n/a
Somalia	35	(83)	5	(17)	10	n/a
Sudan	100	(92)	10	(8)	5	n/a
Tanzania	110	(79)	30	(21)	5	n/a
Uganda	170	(95)	10	(5)	10	n/a
Zimbabwe	10	(90)	*	(10)	*	n/a
Other	325	(87)	50	(13)	10	n/a
Total	5,605	(89)	720	(11)	260	n/a
Middle East						n/a
Iran	250	(94)	15	(6)	15	n/a
Iraq	5	(86)	*	(14)	10	n/a
Other	85	(91)	10	(9)	20	n/a
Total	340	(93)	25	(7)	40	n/a
Asia						
Afghanistan	10	(100)	–	(–)	5	n/a
Bangladesh	220	(94)	15	(6)	20	n/a
China	245	(93)	20	(7)	5	n/a
India	170	(92)	15	(8)	35	n/a
Pakistan	215	(97)	5	(3)	40	n/a
Sri Lanka	620	(94)	35	(6)	20	n/a
Other	80	(96)	5	(4)	10	n/a
Total	1,555	(94)	95	(6)	130	n/a
Nationality not known	135	(81)	30	(19)	5	n/a
Grand total	11,140	(90)	1,275	(10)	730	119,700

[1] Provisional figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest 5, with * = 1 or 2.
[2] Decision figures do not necessarily relate to applications received in 1999.
[3] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[4] 1999 figures may exclude some cases lodged at Local Enforcement Offices.
[5] Percentages for cases considered under normal procedures and those within the backlog clearance exercise are calculated separately.
[6] Cases decided under measures aimed at reducing the pre 1996 asylum application backlog.
[7] Includes cases where asylum or exceptional leave has been granted under the backlog criteria.
[8] Includes some cases where the application has been refused on substantive grounds.

Table 2: Applications received for asylum in the united kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decsisions[1, 2, 3] by nationality 2000[10]

		Decisions					
				Cases considered under normal procedures[5]			
	Applications received[4]	Total decisions		Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum		Not recognised as a refugee but granted exceptional leave	
Nationality	Number	Number	Percentage[6]	Number	Percentage[6]	Number	Percentage[6]
Europe							
Albania	1,490	1,940	(100)	25	(1)	35	(2)
Czech Republic	1,200	1,800	(100)	10	(1)	10	(1)
FRY	6,070	15,125	(100)	275	(2)	815	(5)
Poland	1,015	1,820	(100)	20	(1)	20	(1)
Romania	2,160	2,800	(100)	15	(1)	20	(1)
Russia	1,000	1,195	(100)	25	(3)	45	(5)
Turkey	3,990	3,695	(100)	180	(7)	135	(6)
Ukraine	770	1,270	(100)	15	(1)	35	(3)
Other Former USSR	2,505	3,795	(100)	65	(2)	75	(2)
Other Former Yugo.	2,265	1,550	(100)	110	(8)	50	(3)
Other	415	920	(100)	50	(7)	30	(4)
Total	22,880	35,915	(100)	790	(2)	1,265	(4)
Americas							
Colombia	505	2,090	(100)	60	(3)	60	(3)
Ecuador	445	800	(100)	25	(3)	20	(3)
Other	465	705	(100)	35	(6)	50	(9)
Total	1,420	3,595	(100)	120	(4)	125	(4)
Africa							
Algeria	1,635	1,935	(100)	65	(4)	45	(3)
Angola	800	1,025	(100)	70	(10)	200	(29)
Dem. Rep. Congo	1,030	2,005	(100)	145	(11)	180	(14)
Ethiopia	415	895	(100)	40	(9)	80	(17)
Gambia	50	75	(100)	5	(10)	10	(20)
Ghana	285	420	(100)	40	(14)	35	(11)
Ivory Coast	445	365	(100)	15	(4)	15	(4)
Kenya	455	1,620	(100)	50	(6)	90	(10)
Nigeria	835	1,215	(100)	20	(2)	90	(10)
Rwanda	760	720	(100)	85	(12)	165	(24)
Sierra Leone	1,330	1,560	(100)	95	(8)	575	(50)
Somalia	5,020	11,325	(100)	5,310	(47)	3,575	(32)
Sudan	415	895	(100)	110	(19)	70	(12)
Tanzania	60	160	(100)	5	(5)	10	(13)
Uganda	740	740	(100)	20	(4)	30	(6)
Zimbabwe	1,010	595	(100)	20	(3)	10	(2)
Other	2,635	3,055	(100)	245	(10)	385	(15)
Total	17,920	28,610	(100)	6,340	(27)	5,560	(23)
Middle East							
Iran	5,610	3,690	(100)	390	(11)	255	(7)
Iraq	7,475	5,530	(100)	845	(15)	2,455	(45)
Other	1,330	1,470	(100)	115	(10)	100	(8)
Total	14,415	10,690	(100)	1,350	(13)	2,810	(28)
Asia							
Afghanistan	5,555	2,590	(100)	375	(15)	695	(27)
Bangladesh	795	1,250	(100)	20	(2)	35	(4)
China	4,000	5,860	(100)	40	(1)	130	(2)
India	2,120	2,435	(100)	40	(2)	45	(2)
Pakistan	3,165	4,715	(100)	125	(3)	120	(3)
Sri Lanka	6,395	9,050	(100)	900	(11)	285	(4)
Other	1,205	1,330	(100)	50	(4)	65	(6)
Total	23,230	27,230	(100)	1,545	(6)	1,375	(6)
Nationality not known	450	3,165	(100)	225	(8)	355	(12)
Grand total	80,315	109,205	(100)	10,375	(11)	11,495	(12)

Decisions

Cases considered under normal procedures[1]

Refusals

Nationality	*Total refused*		*Refused asylum and exceptional leave after full consideration*		*Refused on safe third country grounds*		*Refused on non-compliance grounds*	
	Number	*Percentage*[2]	*Number*	*Percentage*[2]	*Number*	*Percentage*[2]	*Number*	*Percentage*[2]
Europe								
Albania	1,875	(97)	1,480	(76)	50	(3)	345	(18)
Czech Republic	1,775	(99)	1,565	(87)	5	(–)	205	(12)
FRY	13,830	(93)	10,860	(73)	95	(1)	2,880	(19)
Poland	1,765	(98)	1,445	(80)	*	(–)	320	(18)
Romania	2,695	(99)	1,590	(58)	70	(3)	1,030	(38)
Russia	900	(92)	530	(54)	10	(1)	360	(37)
Turkey	2,090	(87)	1,095	(46)	145	(6)	850	(35)
Ukraine	1,045	(96)	760	(70)	20	(2)	265	(24)
Other Former USSR	3,285	(96)	2,250	(66)	20	(1)	1,015	(30)
Other Former Yugo.	1,280	(89)	1,110	(77)	*	(–)	170	(12)
Other	605	(88)	450	(65)	10	(1)	150	(22)
Total	31,145	(94)	23,125	(70)	430	(1)	7,590	(23)
Americas								
Colombia	1,775	(94)	1,600	(84)	30	(2)	145	(8)
Ecuador	650	(94)	490	(70)	45	(6)	120	(17)
Other	470	(85)	330	(60)	*	(–)	135	(25)
Total	2,900	(92)	2,420	(77)	75	(2)	405	(13)
Africa								
Algeria	1,330	(93)	760	(53)	20	(1)	550	(38)
Angola	425	(61)	205	(30)	10	(1)	210	(31)
Dem. Rep. Congo	990	(75)	610	(46)	30	(2)	350	(27)
Ethiopia	355	(75)	220	(47)	5	(1)	130	(27)
Gambia	30	(71)	15	(39)	–	(–)	15	(32)
Ghana	225	(75)	155	(52)	–	(–)	70	(23)
Ivory Coast	265	(91)	90	(31)	25	(8)	150	(51)
Kenya	785	(85)	535	(58)	10	(1)	240	(26)
Nigeria	770	(87)	415	(47)	10	(1)	345	(39)
Rwanda	440	(64)	150	(22)	5	(1)	285	(41)
Sierra Leone	480	(42)	145	(13)	10	(1)	320	(28)
Somalia	2,365	(21)	695	(6)	30	(–)	1,645	(15)
Sudan	395	(68)	270	(47)	20	(3)	110	(19)
Tanzania	60	(82)	40	(54)	*	(3)	20	(25)
Uganda	480	(90)	250	(46)	*	(–)	230	(43)
Zimbabwe	525	(94)	435	(79)	–	(–)	90	(16)
Other	1,860	(75)	950	(38)	30	(1)	880	(35)
Total	11,780	(50)	5,945	(25)	200	(1)	5,635	(24)
Middle East								
Iran	2,815	(81)	1,595	(46)	35	(1)	1,185	(34)
Iraq	2,220	(40)	825	(15)	70	(1)	1,320	(24)
Other	945	(82)	595	(51)	30	(3)	320	(28)
Total	5,975	(59)	3,020	(30)	135	(1)	2,825	(28)
Asia								
Afghanistan	1,515	(59)	460	(18)	35	(1)	1,020	(39)
Bangladesh	870	(94)	560	(60)	50	(5)	260	(28)
China	5,480	(97)	3,665	(65)	45	(1)	1,770	(31)
India	2,125	(96)	1,185	(53)	40	(2)	905	(41)
Pakistan	3,720	(94)	2,445	(62)	40	(1)	1,235	(31)
Sri Lanka	6,875	(85)	5,115	(63)	170	(2)	1,590	(20)
Other	1,015	(90)	480	(43)	5	(–)	530	(47)
Total	21,600	(88)	13,910	(57)	380	(2)	7,310	(30)
Nationality not known	2,280	(80)	1,730	(60)	20	(1)	530	(19)
Grand total	75,680	(78)	50,145	(51)	1,240	(1)	24,290	(25)

Decisions

Backlog clearance exercise

Nationality	*Granted asylum or exceptional leave under backlog criteria*		*Refused under backlog criteria*		*Applications withdrawn*	*Applications outstanding at end of year*
	Number[7, 8]	*Percentage*[8]	*Number*[7, 9]	*Percentage*[8]		
Europe						
Albania	5	(80)	*	(20)	60	n/a
Czech Republic	*	(100)	–	(–)	80	n/a
FRY	165	(82)	35	(18)	240	n/a
Poland	10	(50)	10	(50)	95	n/a
Romania	45	(63)	30	(37)	65	n/a
Russia	185	(84)	35	(16)	35	n/a
Turkey	1,215	(94)	80	(6)	40	n/a
Ukraine	155	(88)	20	(12)	55	n/a
Other Former USSR	320	(86)	50	(14)	155	n/a
Other Former Yugo.	80	(75)	30	(25)	25	n/a
Other	210	(89)	25	(11)	35	n/a
Total	2,395	(88)	320	(12)	885	n/a
Americas						
Colombia	180	(95)	10	(5)	15	n/a
Ecuador	100	(96)	5	(4)	10	n/a
Other	135	(89)	15	(11)	45	n/a
Total	420	(93)	30	(7)	70	n/a
Africa						
Algeria	415	(83)	85	(17)	45	n/a
Angola	240	(72)	90	(28)	10	n/a
Dem. Rep. Congo	610	(89)	75	(11)	20	n/a
Ethiopia	390	(93)	30	(7)	15	n/a
Gambia	30	(88)	5	(12)	5	n/a
Ghana	90	(72)	35	(28)	15	n/a
Ivory Coast	70	(95)	5	(5)	5	n/a
Kenya	625	(90)	70	(10)	30	n/a
Nigeria	290	(86)	45	(14)	40	n/a
Rwanda	30	(94)	*	(6)	5	n/a
Sierra Leone	365	(90)	40	(10)	25	n/a
Somalia	55	(78)	15	(22)	50	n/a
Sudan	300	(94)	20	(6)	10	n/a
Tanzania	80	(95)	5	(5)	5	n/a
Uganda	195	(94)	10	(6)	15	n/a
Zimbabwe	35	(88)	5	(12)	10	n/a
Other	520	(92)	50	(8)	50	n/a
Total	4,345	(88)	585	(12)	345	n/a
Middle East						n/a
Iran	210	(89)	25	(11)	40	n/a
Iraq	10	(89)	*	(11)	20	n/a
Other	295	(96)	10	(4)	40	n/a
Total	515	(93)	40	(7)	100	n/a
Asia						
Afghanistan	10	(100)	–	(–)	25	n/a
Bangladesh	290	(90)	35	(10)	15	n/a
China	165	(79)	45	(21)	30	n/a
India	175	(78)	50	(22)	45	n/a
Pakistan	685	(91)	65	(9)	95	n/a
Sri Lanka	895	(90)	100	(10)	45	n/a
Other	170	(84)	30	(16)	35	n/a
Total	2,385	(88)	320	(12)	290	n/a
Nationality not known	275	(89)	35	(11)	30	n/a

	Decisions					
	Backlog clearance exercise					
	Granted asylum or exceptional leave under backlog criteria		Refused under backlog criteria			
Nationality	Number[7, 8]	Percentage[6]	Number[7, 9]	Percentage[6]	Applications withdrawn	Applications outstanding at end of year
Grand total	10,325	(89)	1,335	(11)	1,720	89,100

[1] Provisional figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest 5, with * = 1 or 2.
[2] Decision figures do not necessarily relate to applications received in 2000.
[3] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[4] May exclude some cases lodged at Local Enforcement Offices between January and March 2000.
[5] Cases considered under normal procedures may include some cases decided under the backlog criteria.
[6] Percentages for cases considered under normal procedures and those within the backlog clearance exercise are calculated separately.
[7] Cases decided under measures aimed at reducing the pre 1996 asylum application backlog.
[8] Includes cases where asylum or exceptional leave has been granted under the backlog criteria.
[9] Includes some cases where the application has been refused on substantive grounds.
[10] Provisional.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if she will make a statement. [226797]

Mr. Woolas: The decision to employ recruitment consultants to assist with filling a particular vacancy is made by individual business units, and all associated costs are met from devolved unit budgets. The information requested is therefore not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Identity and Passport Service

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many blank passports were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Identity and Passport Service in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [225382]

Meg Hillier: No blank United Kingdom passports have been lost or stolen from the Identity and Passport Service in the last five years.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports were lost by the Identity and Passport Service while being couriered to the passport holder in each of the last five years. [225383]

Meg Hillier: The figures in the table set out the number of passport or supporting document deliveries that have been recorded as lost. It is not possible to differentiate between losses of passports and losses of supporting documents. Supporting documents are returned by 2nd class post when the customer pays for secure delivery.

		Number
2003	Passports only	3,593
2004	February 2004 to January 2005	601
2005	February 2005 to January 2006	1,018
2006	February 2006 to January 2007	727
2007	February 2007 to January 2008	716

The figures from 2004 are collated in line with the contractual arrangements with Secure Mail Services, the Secure Delivery provider, which commenced in February 2004. These arrangements replaced the use of First Class Mail. In the last year of the Royal Mail arrangements losses accounted for around 0.06 per cent of passports posted. Since the introduction of Secure Delivery, the rate is around 0.011 per cent. a reduction of over 80 per cent.

Over six million items a year are delivered to IPS customers through the Secure Delivery service. IPS and SMS continue to work closely to improve upon losses while maintaining minimum inconvenience to customers. All passport losses are added to the database of lost or stolen passports.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines have been issued to the Identity and Passport Service on the secure delivery of documentation to passport holders. [225384]

Meg Hillier: Passports are delivered by Secure Mail Services (SMS) courier. The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has provided SMS with instructions as to whether a signature is required or not, dependent upon known losses for the postcode, and the premises being delivered to. This flexible approach means that the integrity of the delivery process, and the passport, is maintained while minimising the need for customers to be at home to receive their passport. Around 3 per cent. of courier deliveries require a signature on delivery.

Disguised mail is used to deliver passports to customers living in remote areas where there is perceived to be very little risk to mail. Recorded Delivery is used and around 0.4 per cent. of passports are delivered in this way.

Supporting documentation is returned by Second Class post unless customers elect to pay the £3 fee for Secure Delivery of their documents. Documents returned by Secure Delivery are treated identically to passport deliveries.

All items carried by SMS are fully auditable throughout their journey from despatch to delivery, enabling full investigation of claims of non-receipt.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in compensation to passport holders whose passports were lost by the Identity and Passport Service in each of the last five years. [225385]

Meg Hillier: We do not hold these data in the required format and they could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Identity and Passport Service: Personal Records

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of the loss of personal documents were recorded by the Identity and Passport Service in each of the last five years. [225094]

Meg Hillier: The following figures provide the number of cases where customers have approached the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) to request replacements for lost documents sent in to support passport applications, such as birth and marriage certificates. The losses occur within IPS premises, as a result of administrative errors, as well as during the postal process.

	Number of documents lost by IPS
2003	1,068
2004	1,169
2005	1,547
2006	729
2007	438
Total	4,951

Passports: Interviews

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years have been interviewed at passport interview centres since the system of interviews for passport applications was introduced. [225930]

Meg Hillier: For the period where interviews were introduced until the 8 October 2008, IPS conducted 35,580 interviews for applicants under the age of 18 years.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Complaints

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to allow bus passengers to make appeals regarding complaints to Passenger Focus in an analogous way to those which may be made by rail passengers. [226714]

Paul Clark: On 8 April 2008 the then Secretary of State for Transport announced that Passenger Focus (the statutory rail passenger watchdog) would widen its remit to become the bus passenger champion. The Local Transport Bill, currently going through Parliament, would provide the necessary primary powers to enable the Secretary of State, through secondary legislation, to place functions relating to bus and domestic coach services onto Passenger Focus.

Arising from the successful passage of the Local Transport Bill, a decision on roles and responsibilities for Passenger Focus will be made in due course.

Bus Services: Concessions

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of people eligible for a free bus pass have applied for one in Leeds since the scheme was introduced. [226391]

Paul Clark: The Department is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many applications individual authorities have received.

Leeds is part of the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (WY Metro). The last information held by the Department was that as of 7 April this year WY Metro had submitted approximately 239,000 applications for the new smartcard concessionary passes to their pass supplier. This represents around 58 per cent. of the estimated eligible population in WYPTE, which is approximately 410,000.

Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many tonnes of *(a)* carbon dioxide, *(b)* other greenhouse gases and *(c)* harmful particulates were emitted from (i) road and (ii) other transport in each of the last eight years. [227097]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) compiles estimates of emissions to the atmosphere from UK sources. The most recent NAEI data published by DEFRA can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/download/xls/gatb04.xls.

The following table contains the estimates of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from road transport and other transport for each year from 1999 to 2006 which is the latest year for which official figures have been published.

Carbon dioxide

Million tonnes CO_2

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Road transport	116.8	116.0	116.0	118.4	118.2	119.4	119.9	120.3
Other transport[1]	7.2	7.2	6.9	6.5	8.2	8.4	9.2	10.5

[1] Other transport includes domestic aviation, railways, domestic shipping, and other mobile sources and machinery.

The Kyoto agreement defines a set of six greenhouse gases (GHG's) which are: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride.

The following tables contain estimates of methane and nitrous oxide from road transport and other transport for each year from 1999 to 2006 which is the latest year for which official figures have been published. Emissions from transport of hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride are negligible.

Methane

Thousand tonnes

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Road transport	16.3	14.5	12.7	11.3	9.9	8.8	7.9	7.2
Other transport[1]	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4

[1] Other transport includes domestic aviation, railways, domestic shipping, and other mobile sources and machinery.

Nitrous oxide

Thousand tonnes

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Road transport	12.1	13.1	14.1	15.0	15.6	16.2	16.4	16.7
Other transport[1]	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2

[1] Other transport includes domestic aviation, railways, domestic shipping, and other mobile sources and machinery.

In addition to the above, the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) publishes estimates of emissions of harmful particulates to the atmosphere from UK sources. The most recent NAEI data published by DEFRA can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/airqual/download/xls/aqtb11.xls

The following table contains estimates of harmful particulate (PM10) emissions from road transport and other transport for each year from 1999 to 2006 which is the latest year for which official figures have been published.

PM10 emissions

Thousand tonnes

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Road transport	43.3	38.6	37.7	36.9	36.2	35.4	33.7	32.3
Other transport[1]	5.4	5.1	4.5	3.9	5.6	6.4	7.4	9.6

[1] Other transport includes domestic aviation, railways, domestic shipping, and other mobile sources and machinery.

Cars: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the relative merits of using a weight-based system or a footprint-based system to assess a car's carbon dioxide emissions. [226563]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have looked at the weight versus footprint issue from various perspectives: total costs and how they would be distributed among different types of vehicles; how well the criterion relates to desirable features in a vehicle ('utility'); to what extent the criterion may encourage perverse incentives; and availability of data.

There is an analysis on pages 59-62 of the Impact Assessment accompanying our consultation on the draft European regulation on new car CO_2 emissions, available at:

http://www.dft.Gov.uk/consultations/closed/co2emissions/impactassesment.pdf

In the light of examination of this question by officials in my Department, we support a weight-based utility parameter, but with provision for data collection and review of the regulation so that a footprint-based system could be considered for the future.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226961]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is not held centrally, therefore could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the Department for Transport's expenditure on and acceptance of any hospitality is conducted in accordance with the principles of Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety.

Crossrail: Consultants

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on consultation fees for the Crossrail project. [225609]

Paul Clark: The amount spent by the Department for Transport on financial, legal and technical consultancy fees in support of Crossrail is shown in the following table.

	Amount (£)
2003-04	1,144,920
2004-05	1,780,816
2005-06	2,621,620
2006-07	3,962,625
2007-08	4,416,936
2008-09 (to end September)	2,798,708
Total	16,725,625

The figures include consultancy costs incurred by the Department both in support of the Bill process and on the development of the funding and governance arrangements for the Crossrail project.

Departmental Consultations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total expenditure on consultants by his Department was in each year since its creation. [228083]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2425W.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226431]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport comprises a central department plus seven executive agencies each with its own pay and reward system. Information regarding bonus payments has been collected from the central department and five agencies and collated in to one set of figures for the 2007-08 financial year:

	Number of staff receiving bonus	Total amount of bonuses paid (£)
2007-08	6,510	3,844,107

The figures exclude data for DVLA and VOSA. The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is committed to rewarding good performance. Bonuses are paid in respect of overall performance or exceptional performance on a specific task or at a specific time. They encourage high attainment because they have to be earned each year, motivating staff and supporting better public service delivery.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small- and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226499]

Mr. Hoon: The payment performance in respect of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium sized businesses is not separated from the Department's overall payment performance and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In 2007-08 the central Department paid 95.8 per cent. of all valid invoices within 30 days of receipt and agencies for which the Department is responsible for paid 92.4 per cent.

Departmental Reviews

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress he has made on his plans to revise the New Approach to Appraisal; and within what *(a)* parameters and *(b)* timescale the review is operating. [228024]

Mr. Hoon: In July 2008, we published a document that summarised responses received to the NATA Refresh consultation, and set out our plans for developing the New Approach to Appraisal (NATA) framework. The document announced a number of changes to better capture the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions, travel time variability, the health benefits of active transport, and initiatives to better represent cycling and walking in transport modelling.

We are also working on further changes that will:

reflect continuing developments in analysing climate change;

improve the presentation of evidence in the appraisal summary table;

better capture transport's contribution to economic growth;

ensure appropriate weight is given to assessments of transport's impact on the natural environment;

capture the costs and benefits associated with new housing;

develop our approach to appraising social and distributional impacts of transport schemes; and

improve the dissemination of appraisal guidance.

Work is also in hand to consider the treatment of indirect taxation when prioritising transport schemes, and separately to consider whether it would be appropriate to adopt a lighter-touch appraisal approach for smaller schemes.

The scope of the NATA Refresh is limited to the New Approach to Appraisal. Improvements resulting from the NATA Refresh have already been made and we have plans for the next 12 months about how improvements will become part of the definitive set of guidance no later than April 2010. These are presented in the final pages of the summary of responses to the NATA consultation at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/consulnatarefresh/responses/

DVLA: Data Protection

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many individuals have their details protected by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency such that requests for release of information in relation to such individuals which would otherwise be granted are not granted; and what criteria the Agency applies in determining to whom this practice should apply. [228025]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All vehicles held on DVLA's vehicle register are subject to the same provisions with regards to disclosure to third parties. No vehicles are protected from disclosure where the requester can demonstrate a lawful right to receive that data.

Euston Station: Access

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ask *(a)* the Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission to inspect Euston station to ensure it complies with the relevant legislation in respect of access for the (i) disabled and (ii) parents with pushchairs from (A) car parks, (B) taxi ranks and (C) London Underground to the station and train platforms. [226593]

Paul Clark: I am aware that the Association of Train Operating Companies is currently carrying out a programme of access audits of all stations on the network, the results of which will be made available in due course.

Inspection and enforcement of safety legislation on the operational railway is the on-going responsibility of HM Railway Inspectorate, which is overseen by the Office of the Rail Regulator, as set out in the Railways Act 2005. HMRI determine when visits to assess compliance are necessary.

Any works at stations must also comply with the standards in the DfT publication: "Accessible Train and Station Design for Disabled People: A Code of Practice". Assessing compliance with these standards for new or existing station infrastructure is not a role of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when Euston station was last inspected to ensure it meets disability discrimination legislation in respect of access from *(a)* car parks and *(b)* taxi ranks to (i) the station concourse and (ii) train platforms; and if he will make a statement about the adequacy of the station's compliance with such legislation. [226594]

Paul Clark: All train and station operators self-certify to ensure that they meet the provisions of disability-related legislation and appropriate infrastructure requirements for accessibility. They must additionally produce a Disabled People's Protection Policy, agreed by the Secretary of State, which sets out the level of service and facilities at all stations that they operate, and which is updated regularly.

Network Rail's Disabled People's Protection Policy was last updated in June 2008 and is reviewed regularly. The current Disabled People's Protection Policy sets out arrangements for assisting passengers with reduced mobility to access the station from the car park and taxi rank.

Inside the station building, level access is possible to all platforms, and staff assistance is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Modern facilities include an accessible toilet, induction loops and mobility vehicles which are available on request. As such, people with reduced mobility should be able to obtain any assistance that they require in order to use the station.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that access to all parts of Euston station is improved for *(a)* the elderly and disabled, *(b)* parents with pushchairs and *(c)* travellers with large amounts of luggage. [226602]

Paul Clark: This is an operational matter for Network Rail who own and operate the station. Station operators are required by part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to make reasonable physical adjustments so that disabled people can access their services.

Network Rail are responding to this duty and are currently developing plans to install a lift link between the station concourse, taxi rank, car park and Underground ticket hall to improve access for passengers with reduced mobility. This facility is planned for completion in October 2009. In addition, Network Rail have confirmed that a comprehensive programme of refurbishments is being considered for 2015-16.

Lorries: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road collisions involved side impact crashes into heavy goods vehicles in each region of England and Wales in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* 2008; [227132]

(2) how many people were *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* injured in road collisions involving side impact crashes into heavy goods vehicles in each region of England and Wales in (i) each of the last 10 years and (ii) 2008 to date. [227133]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one heavy goods vehicle where the first point of impact was the side, and the number of people *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* slightly injured resulting from these accidents, in each Government office region in 1998 to 2007 are given in the tables.

Number of accidents

Government office region	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	94	139	92	96	106	112	89	120	106	101
North West	583	665	573	543	558	528	492	465	455	391
Yorkshire and the Humber	353	376	335	341	329	302	322	307	286	278
East Midlands	421	425	490	431	422	402	449	399	323	319
West Midlands	464	485	492	498	428	420	426	469	407	408
East of England	512	481	550	545	543	546	510	497	438	447
South East	584	699	708	713	709	702	745	638	643	622
London	466	464	458	497	407	361	345	396	422	314

Number of accidents

Government office region	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
South West	262	285	297	299	259	280	222	262	232	246
England	3,739	4,019	3,995	3,963	3,761	3,633	3,600	3,553	3,312	3,126
Wales	152	163	149	150	183	163	140	141	144	116
Total England and Wales	3,891	4,182	4,144	4,113	3,944	3,816	3,740	3,694	3,456	3,242

Number of casualties

Government office region	*Severity*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	Killed	3	2	2	3	3	1	2	4	0	2
	Serious	19	19	9	15	18	11	14	16	18	14
	Slight	96	185	117	123	127	143	98	158	123	123
North West	Killed	13	17	18	14	12	14	12	15	7	14
	Serious	83	100	82	80	82	74	60	78	64	53
	Slight	710	825	656	657	668	633	586	527	547	467
Yorkshire and the Humber	Killed	11	7	11	10	10	7	6	13	5	8
	Serious	65	78	58	51	70	67	63	34	41	47
	Slight	404	399	380	399	397	343	389	355	335	311
East Midlands	Killed	15	25	14	12	12	18	9	12	20	12
	Serious	88	73	90	78	82	69	60	68	41	35
	Slight	439	489	608	471	446	432	513	463	359	353
West Midlands	Killed	12	11	3	18	16	10	9	6	12	6
	Serious	95	86	87	73	57	58	39	65	45	38
	Slight	488	544	527	561	479	472	508	530	480	479
East of England	Killed	15	11	17	10	9	16	10	11	10	22
	Serious	115	95	122	89	89	81	74	71	67	79
	Slight	549	517	633	611	602	611	599	586	501	480
South East	Killed	13	15	18	21	14	17	11	13	23	11
	Serious	107	141	101	122	119	87	106	70	69	87
	Slight	643	761	816	774	735	810	846	750	730	720
London	Killed	19	22	15	13	15	14	6	3	14	11
	Serious	99	75	80	94	74	74	61	48	81	66
	Slight	418	433	442	474	378	343	334	413	388	275
South West	Killed	9	9	11	10	16	10	9	12	6	9
	Serious	41	54	66	50	46	39	33	36	31	34
	Slight	297	317	313	335	282	316	249	272	252	286
England	Killed	110	119	109	111	107	107	74	89	95	95
	Serious	712	721	695	652	637	560	510	482	457	453
	Slight	4,044	4,470	4,492	4,405	4,134	4,123	4,122	4,054	3,715	3,494
Wales	Killed	7	5	8	5	6	3	4	3	3	1
	Serious	32	30	23	35	38	22	13	20	11	14
	Slight	180	173	166	164	214	183	169	155	179	138

Number of casualties

Government office region	Severity	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
England and Wales	Killed	117	124	117	116	113	110	78	92	98	96
	Serious	744	751	718	687	675	582	523	502	468	467
	Slight	4,224	4,643	4,058	4,569	4,348	4,306	4,291	4,209	3,894	3,632

2008 data will be published in June 2009.

Lorries: Safety Measures

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage compliance with the requirement for goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes in relation to rear view mirrors. [226750]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has been working closely with vehicle manufacturers and representatives of the road haulage industry to promote awareness of the new requirements for improved mirrors to be retro-fitted to goods vehicles above 3.5 tonnes that come into force from 31 March 2009.

Compliance will be confirmed through the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) annual test and their targeted roadside checks, carried out in conjunction with the police, from 1 April 2009.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles are licensed; and what the total licence revenue was for each emission rating band in the private and light goods vehicle licensing category in the year for which figures are available. [224660]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A snapshot of the Vehicles database as at June 2008 showed the total number of licensed vehicles was 34.4 million, and the total value of licences in force for Private and Light Goods Vehicles were:

Band	*Total (£ million)*
Up to 1549 cc	510
Over 1549 cc	1,568
A	—
B	20
C	604
D	566
E	490
F	817
G	128
Euro 4 LGV	13
LGV	333
Total	5,051

Please note that the aforementioned figures reflect the value of licences in force as at June 2008 and not the total VED collected for a specific financial period. These figures are calculated from direct vehicle register scans and are reported to DfT for statistical purposes, while the financial reporting of VED collected net of subsequent refunds collected for each financial year is not analysed in this way. The differences are relatively small, but reflect the six month and 12 month licensing regimes, changes in rates, declaration of "off the road" status for vehicles and the non-coterminosity of licensing periods with financial reporting years.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which 20 registration marks sold by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in the last year for which figures are available have generated the greatest income; and what the selling price was in each case. [228026]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following registration numbers have raised the most (net) revenue in the last year.

	Net revenue (£)
6 B	(102,200)
1 RAN	(51,500)
108 A	(31,000)
4 DAM	(29,000)
WEL 5H	(27,200)
OWN 1T	(26,200)
1 HEL	(22,000)
RUB 1Y	(21,000)
88 M	(20,900)
SYR 1A	(20,500)
63 AC	(19,700)
HU57 LER	(19,500)
SSS 9	(18,400)
1 SLW	(18,000)
81 ACK	(18,000)
AHM 5D	(16,500)
42 E	(15,700)
SOP 81E	(15,600)
1 LCH	(15,500)
CLA 51C	(15,500)
Net total	523,900

Overseas Visitors

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of UK travellers to countries outside the EU in each of the last two years. [227295]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of UK residents travelling to countries outside the EU-27 in each of the last two years.

UK residents to countries outside the EU-27

Million

	2006	*2007*
By air	17.6	17.5
By sea	0.6	0.7

Source:
International Passenger Survey (IPS)

Railways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what light rail schemes are scheduled to open in the next two years. [227113]

Paul Clark: No new light rail schemes are scheduled to open in the next two years. However, during this period work will be continuing on a project to refurbish and upgrade the Manchester Metrolink system. This will help to ensure improved journeys for passengers on the network. The Department is providing £58 million towards the £102 million costs of this project.

Furthermore, in May 2008 the Department approved £244.3 million towards a scheme to extend the Metrolink system to Rochdale, Oldham and Chorlton. These lines will be operational by 2012.

We are also working closely with the promoters of the Nottingham Express Transit in regard to their proposals to extend the system. If the project is granted full approval, these new lines could be open to the public in 2013.

Railways: Electrification

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of miles of railways in each county are not electrified. [226747]

Paul Clark: The Department does not hold the information requested.

This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Railways: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* First Great Western have made to the Office of the Rail Regulator on the issue of the Kemble to Swindon redoubling. [226646]

Paul Clark: Network Rail and First Great Western made representations in their draft determinations responses. These have been published on the Office of Rail Regulation's website at:

Network Rail response:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/DDresp-nr-040908.pdf

First Great Western response:

ttp://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/DDenS-fgw-310708.pdf

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations the Office of the Rail Regulator has received from *(a)* Gloucestershire county council, *(b)* Gloucestershire First and *(c)* the Gloucestershire Chamber of Commerce on the issue of the Kemble to Swindon redoubling. [226659]

Paul Clark: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) received responses to the draft determinations from Gloucestershire county council (two responses) and Gloucestershire First (two responses). ORR did not receive a separate reply from the Gloucestershire Chamber of Commerce; however, their comments were included in one of Gloucestershire First's responses to ORR. The responses have been published on the ORR website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.9204.

Railways: Lancashire

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to promoting the construction of the Todmorden Curve to cut train journey times between Manchester and Burnley. [226705]

Paul Clark: My noble Friend the Minister of State for Transport, Lord Adonis met my hon. Friend the Member for Burnley and Padiham (Kitty Ussher) on 9 October to discuss the proposal for a direct service between Burnley and Manchester. It would be for Lancashire county council, as transport authority, to consider the best way of achieving this, in discussion with Network Rail and Northern Rail.

Road Traffic: Business

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate the Government has made of the cost of congestion to UK business in each of the last 10 years. [227104]

Paul Clark: The Department has not undertaken any studies to give such annual estimates.

Road Traffic: Costs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated annual cost to the economy of road congestion has been in each year since 1997. [226694]

Paul Clark: The Department has not undertaken any studies to give such annual estimates.

Roads: Noise

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of people adversely affected by noise pollution from the strategic road network in the last eight years. [227094]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency has not detailed undertaken work to estimate the likely number of people adversely affected by noise arising from the use of the strategic road network over the last eight years.

The Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended) include provisions to improve the information available to the public about noise and its effect. The regulations require the preparation of strategic noise maps for urban areas, major roads, major railways and

major airports. Following the completion of mapping, an action plan is to be drawn up to manage noise and reduce it where possible.

This action plan will include an estimate of numbers of people affected by traffic noise from major roads, which includes a majority of the strategic road network.

Mapping and action plans are to be prepared on a five year cycle. All mapping for this current cycle has been completed and is

available to view on the internet at

www.defra.gov.uk/noisemapping.

This Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs plan to prepare and consult on drafting action plans later this year.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many local road schemes were completed in each year since 2000. [227082]

Paul Clark: The following table provides a list of local major road schemes which have been completed since 2000, and to which the Department has contributed funding of £5 million or more:

Scheme Name	*Year completed*
A617 Rainworth Bypass, Nottinghamshire	2000
A19 Doncaster North Bridge	2001
A6002/A6007 Coventry Lane Improvement, Nottinghamshire	2001
Avon Ring Road	2001
Skelton Brotton Bypass, Redcar and Cleveland	2001
A22 Dualling Nightingale Farm Polegate, Sussex	2001
Bridgewater Northern Distributor Road, Somerset	2002
Broome/Ellingham Bypass, Essex	2002
A131 Great Leighs Bypass, Essex	2002
A511 Ashby Bypass Stage 2, Leicestershire	2002
Wyre Piddle Bypass, Worcestershire	2002
Doncaster Denaby Main Diversion	2002
South Ribble Interface Improvements, Lancashire	2002
A5227 Biddulph Inner Bypass, Staffordshire	2003
A53 Hodnet Bypass, Shropshire	2003
Barnsley Coalfields Link Road Stages 2 and 3	2003
Eastern Road	2003
A689 Sedgefield Wynyard Improvement, Durham	2003
A206 South Thameside Development Route 4, Kent	2003
West Thurrock Regeneration Route, Essex	2004
Burntwood Bypass (Phase 1 to 3), Staffordshire	2004
Manchester and Salford Inner Relief Road	2004
A607 Rearsby Bypass	2004
A617 Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route, Nottinghamshire	2004
A350 Semington to Melksham Diversion, Wiltshire	2004
South Bradford Transport Improvements	2004
A167 Chilton Bypass, Durham	2005
A228 Ropers Lane Phase 1, Medway	2005
South Stockton Link Road (substantially completed), Stockton-on-Tees	2005
A142 Ford ham Bypass, Cambridgeshire	2005
A16/A158 Partney Bypass, Lincolnshire	2005
Nar Ouse Regeneration Route, Norfolk	2005
A57 Cadishead Way, Salford	2005
A505 Baldock Bypass, Hertfordshire	March 2006
South Lowestoft Relief Road, Suffolk	June 2006
Scotswood Road Dualling, Newcastle	June 2006
Oakham Bypass, Rutland	January 2007
A58 Blackbrook Diversion, St Helens, Merseyside	February 2007
Pegswood Bypass, Northumberland	February 2007
A1198 - Papworth Everard Bypass, Cambridgeshire	March 2007
A612 Gedling Integrated Transport Scheme, Nottinghamshire	May 2007
A429 Barford Bypass, Warwickshire	May 2007
Barnstaple Western Bypass, Devon	May 2007
A38 Northfield Regeneration Relief Road, Birmingham	June 2007
A228 Leybourne and West Mailing Corridor Improvement Scheme, Kent	July 2007
Rugeley Eastern Bypass Stage 2, Staffordshire	September 2007
A4146 Stoke Hammond and Linslade Western Bypass, Buckinghamshire	September
East Kent Access - Phase 1, Kent	October 2007
Cradley Heath Town Centre Strategy Relief Road, Sandwell	September 2007
Sheffield Northern Inner Relief Road	November 2007
A158/C541 Coastal Access Improvement Scheme Phase 2 - (Burgh Le Marsh Bypass), Lincolnshire	November 2007
A165 Reighton Bypass, North Yorkshire	December 2007
Sunderland Southern Radial Route	January 2008
Ridgmont Bypass and Woburn Link Road, Bedfordshire	June 2008
Tunstall Northern Bypass, Stoke on Trent	July 2008
Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor, Darlington	August 2008
Brierley Hill Access Network, Dudley	September 2008
A631 -West Bawtry Road Improvements, Rotherham	End September 2008
A688 - Wheatley Hill to Bowburn Link, Durham	October 2008

Roads: Tolls

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what tolls and charges are applied for use of *(a)* bridges and *(b)* tunnels on the motorway and trunk road network, broken down by charges for (i) cars, (ii) buses, (iii) lorries and (iv) motorcycles. [226728]

Paul Clark: Tolls and charges are applied to certain bridges and tunnels on the motorway and trunk road network in England. Only the Dartford crossing is the direct responsibility of the Government. The Severn river crossings and M6 toll are operated by concessionaires. The Tamar crossing and Tyne tunnel, although forming parts of trunk road routes, are the responsibility of local authorities. The following information is available from the websites of the operators. These websites also provide more detailed information on tolls and charges such as discounts for those choosing to pay using electronic "tags".

Severn River Crossings (tolls are charged westwards only)

	£
Vehicle Category 1 (Up to 9 Seats)	5.30
Vehicle Category 2 (Small bus up to 17 seats and Goods vehicles up to 3,500kg)	10.60
Vehicle Category 3 (18 seats and more and goods vehicles from 3,500kg)	15.90

Note:
1 Motorcycles are exempt from Toll Charges.

Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing

	6am-10pm	£ 10pm-6am
Motor Cycle	Free	Free
Motor Car	£1.00	£1.00
Light or Medium Goods Vehicle	£1.80	£1.00
HGV, Motor Coach or Omnibus	£2.90	£1.00

Note:
As Parliament has previously been notified, a new charging regime is being introduced shortly. Charges will change from 10pm on 15 November 2008.

M6 Toll

	6am-11pm	£ 11 pm-6am
Class 1 (Motorcycle)	2.50	1.50
Class 2 (Car)	4.50	3.50
Class 3 (Car & Trailer)	8.00	7.00
Class 4 (Van/Coach)	9.00	8.00
Class 5 (HGV)	9.00	8.00

Tamar Bridge

	Single	£ With trailer
Motorcycle	Free	Free
2 Axle MGW under 3.5 tonnes	1.00	2.00
2 Axle MGW over 3.5 tonnes	2.50	5.00
3 Axle HGV	4.00	8.00
4 or more Axles HGV	5.50	11.00

Tyne Tunnel

	£
Motorbikes	20p
Cars and Light Vans	1.20
Lorries, Buses, Vans over 3,500kg	1.50

Taxis: Vetting

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to require full criminal record checks, covering the entire adult life, of foreign nationals seeking work as licensed taxi drivers. [226928]

Paul Clark: The legislation governing taxi driver licensing requires local authorities to carry out such checks as they regard necessary in order to satisfy themselves that an applicant for a taxi driver licence is a

"fit and proper person".

It is for each authority to decide what checks to carry out. In making an assessment about applicants' suitability, local authorities can make use of information on an applicant's criminal record.

We have no plans to change this position. However, we have provided Best Practice Guidance to assist local licensing authorities in carrying out their licensing responsibilities. The Guidance, which was published in 2006 drew attention to the importance of local authorities having a policy on background checks for applicants from outside the UK. It provided a link to the Criminal Records Bureau website which contains information about obtaining certificates of good conduct, or similar documents, from a number of countries. In considering revisions to, and updating of, the Guidance over the next few months, we will review whether this particular section should be strengthened.

Transport: Schools

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many school run car journeys he estimates were made in each year since 1997, broken down by the smallest available geographical unit. [226697]

Paul Clark: Data on the number of school run car journeys are not available centrally. However, figures on the proportion of trips to school by mode and region are published in Regional Transport Statistics. The 2007 Edition of this publication is available on the Department for Transport's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/regionaldata/rts/regtranstats2007.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of schools in England he estimates have a travel plan in place. [226698]

Paul Clark: Nearly 70 per cent. of schools currently have a travel plan in place and we are on track to meet our target of all schools to have a travel plan by 2010.

Vehicle Number Plates

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations govern the bearing of representations of *(a)* the EU flag and *(b)* the Union flag on motor vehicle licence plates. [225018]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001 permit the voluntary display of the GB Euro symbol on number plates. These Regulations would not permit without amendment the Union Flag or other national identifiers.

West Coast Railway Line

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects Network Rail to end disruption to train journeys from London Euston to Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester at weekends during the modernisation of the West Coast Main Line. [226600]

Paul Clark: Network Rail has advised that the seven day railway will start with the new timetable in December. However, after the modernisation programme has finished, there will still be a continuing need to maintain and renew assets. This will take place late on Saturday evenings, on Sunday mornings and on Bank Holiday weekends.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects rail journey times from London Euston to Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester on *(a)* Saturdays and *(b)* Sundays to run as frequently as the weekday service. [226601]

Paul Clark: The weekday off-peak service pattern and journey times from Euston to Stoke and Manchester will apply to Saturdays, and from 12.00 on Sundays, when the new timetable commences in December.

HEALTH

Breast Cancer: Counselling

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people treated for breast cancer also received psychological and emotional support during and after treatment in each of the last three years. [228126]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

The Cancer Reform Strategy said that it is important for all service providers to have established pathways to enable patients to access specialist psychological support as and when they need it. It is for commissioners to ensure that adequate provision is available so that all patients, families and carers can access the appropriate psychological support for them. This includes establishing service level agreements with local mental health services for more advanced support.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small- and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226495]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total number of invoices paid within 30 days of receipt in 2007-08 by the Department and its agencies for which the Department is responsible are shown in the following table.

The Department does not differentiate between small and medium sized businesses so the figures shown represent the total of all received invoices.

	Total number of invoices received	*Total number of invoices paid on time*	*Percentage*	*Total number of invoices paid*	*Percentage*
Department of Health[1]	80,570	79,190	98.3	1,380	1.7
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	3,351	3,100	92.5	251	7.5
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	8,771	8,449	96.3	322	3.7
Total	92,692	90,739	97.9	1,953	2.1

[1] Includes all payments made using the Government Procurement Card (GPC).

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were prescribed methadone and other hard drug substitutes in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the size is of the waiting list for substitutes programmes. [226858]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) collects data on the types of treatment a client receives via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). The majority of clients will have received methadone, as part of their treatment programme/regime. Other substitute medication which clients may have received includes buprenorphine and diamorphine. However the data do not differentiate between the types of substitute medication prescribed to clients.

Type of treatment	*2007-08*
Specialist prescribing	99,963
GP prescribing	47,036

Note:
These figures may overlap as clients can receive treatment in both a specialist and GP setting in any given year.

The following is taken from NDTMS statistics published in October 2008 and relates to the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Waiting times for treatments started during 2007-08 – first and subsequent interventions

	Waiting time less than or equal to 3 weeks		*Waiting time greater than 3 weeks*	
Modality	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Specialist prescribing	41,276	91	3,976	9
GP prescribing	15,446	92	1,315	8

The report from which these figures are taken is available for download from the NTA website at:

http://www.nta.nhs.uk/areas/facts_and_figures/0708/docs/ndtms_annual_report_2007_08_011008.pdf.

Health Services: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per head on health in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in 2007-08. [228107]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospital trusts are bidding for foundation trust status; and what criteria must be satisfied before they can achieve such status. [225974]

Mr. Bradshaw: The decision to authorise a national health service foundation trust rests entirely with Monitor (the statutory name for which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts). Applicants must demonstrate to Monitor that they are:

financially and clinically viable;

legally constituted and locally representative; and

well governed.

An applicant trust must receive the Secretary of State's support in order to apply to Monitor for authorisation. Five NHS hospital trusts made a formal application for Secretary of State's support on 1 October 2008. These are:

The Hillingdon NHS Trust;

Calderstones NHS Trust;

East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust;

South Tees NHS Trust; and

West Suffolk NHS Trust.

There are currently 21 NHS hospital trusts undergoing or awaiting assessment by Monitor (including deferrals). These are:

Burton Hospitals NHS Trust;

Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospital NHS Trust;

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust;

Devon Partnership NHS Trust;

Ealing Hospital NHS Trust;

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust;

Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust;

Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust;

Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Trust;

North Cheshire Hospitals Hospital NHS Trust;

Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust;

Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust;

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust;

Royal Brampton and Harefield NHS Trust;

Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust;

Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust;

South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust;

Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust;

The Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust;

Whittington NHS Trust; and

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust.

Vaccination: Children

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of the supply and distribution of vaccines for children and babies. [227439]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* I can confirm that I have had no recent representations about the adequacy of the supply and distribution of vaccines for children and babies. The Department has received correspondence on vaccine issues and these have and continue to be responded to.

The immunisation branch of the Department is in constant contact with primary care trusts and general practitioners to ensure appropriate vaccine supply is maintained.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Hospitals

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which armed forces hospitals have been closed in the last 30 years; and what the date of each such closure was. [226658]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 15 October 2008]:* Details of the British Military Hospitals (BMH) that have closed since 1978 are shown as follows.

Country	*Hospital*	*Closed*
UK	Princess of Wales RAF Hospital, Ely	1992
	Royal Naval Hospital, Stonehouse (Plymouth)	1995
	Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich	1995
	Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot	1995
	Princess Alexandra RAF Hospital, Wroughton	1996
	Princess Mary RAF Hospital, Halton	1996
	Duchess of Kent Military Hospital, Catterick	1999
	Duchess of Kent Psychiatric Hospital, Catterick	2003
	Royal Hospital Haslar, Gosport	2007
Cyprus	BMH Dhekelia[1]	1978
Gibraltar	Royal Naval Hospital, Gibraltar[2]	2008
Falkland Islands	Military Wing at King Edward VII Memorial Hospital	2000
Nepal	BMH Dharan	1989
Hong Kong	British Military Hospital, Kings Park	1996

[1] The Princess Mary Hospital at Akrotiri remains in operation.
[2] Medical care is provided by the new, purpose built Princess Royal Medical Centre.

Officials are working to retrieve information on BMHs in Germany and to identify other overseas hospitals that closed during the last 30 years. However any records retained will have been archived and cannot be immediately accessed. I will write to my right hon. Friend once this exercise is complete to advise him of the results.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Armed Forces were sent to the *(a)* US Navy War College, *(b)* US National Defense University, *(c)* US Army War College, *(d)* US Air University and *(e)* European Security and Defence College in each year since 2005. [226987]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table details attendance.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
US Navy War College	2	1	2	1	6
US National Defense University	0	0	1	0	1
US Army War College	1	1	1	1	4
US Air University[1]	2	3	2	4	11
European Security and Defence College	5	7	12	12	36

[1] Includes attendance (x4) at School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS).

War Pensions

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were in receipt of a war pension in each year since 1997. [224688]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of people in receipt of a war pension as at 31 December in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East, and England for each of the calendar years from 2000 to 2007 can be found in the following table. Data is only available as at 30 June for the present calendar year. Data prior to the year 2000 is unavailable.

Number of people in receipt of a war pension in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and England, from 2000 to date[1, 2]

Number of war pensioners

	As at 31 December								
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*31 June 2008*
Jarrow	895	845	805	760	730	690	640	605	580
South Tyneside	1,735	1,630	1,540	1,415	1,350	1,255	1,160	1,075	1,030
North East	16,840	16,080	15,315	14,490	13,755	13,100	12,445	11,745	11,420
England	194,845	187,695	179,875	151,735	144,030	136,735	129,870	123,220	119,775

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
[2] Figures prior to 2006 are not directly comparable to those published in the quarterly War Pensions National Statistic due to recent improvements in data processing.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure on *(a)* the war pension scheme and *(b)* the armed forces compensation scheme was in each year since 2004; and what estimates he has made of likely expenditure on each in each of the next three years. [219995]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The expenditure on the War Pension Scheme is as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	1,110.082
2005-06	1,066.932
2006-07	1,038.574
2007-08	1,014.616

The current estimated expenditure for the next three years is:

Financial year	*£ million*
2008-09	1,015.602
2009-10	991.921
2010-11	941.758

The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme began on 6 April 2005 and the expenditure on it is as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	—
2005-06	1.274
2006-07	6.159
2007-08	13.067

The current estimated expenditure for the next three years is:

Financial year	*Amount (£ million)*
2008-09	17.455
2009-10	27.270
2010-11	42.743

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in the Government Equalities Office in the last 12 months; and at what cost to the public purse. [226642]

Maria Eagle: In the last 12 months the GEO has awarded 43 non-pensionable bonuses at a total cost before tax of £16,650.

Equality: Public Bodies

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the make-up of the board of each public body is broken down by *(a)* gender, *(b)* race, *(c)* disability, *(d)* faith, *(e)* age and *(f)* sexual orientation. [225859]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) sponsors two non departmental public bodies (NDPBs):

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), an executive NDPB and;

The Women's National Commission (WNC), an advisory NDPB.

There is no central requirement to collect data on faith, age and sexual orientation. However, details are shown in the following table for gender, disability and ethnicity and these percentages are based on figures as at 31 March 2008.

Percentage

	Appointees			
	Male	*Female*	*Disabled*	*Ethnic minority*
EHRC	37.5	62.5	18.8	37.5
WNC	0	100	0	33.3

This data will also be available along with other Departments' statistics in the Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies 2008", which will be released in the new year.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information technology projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies cancelled prior to completion in each of the last five years; and what the cost of each project was at cancellation. [223973]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions was created in June 2001. The Department undertakes a large number of projects which deliver business change and policy initiatives. The great majority have been, and continue to be, successful. IT changes are an enabling component of many projects. The number of projects in train at any one time will vary and the duration of the project lifecycle is often more than one calendar year. The following table includes only those projects that have been formally closed where the IT element was such that non-delivery of the IT significantly affected the project's ability to deliver its intended results and the investment in the project exceeded £1 million.

Project name	*Investment expenditure £(million)*
Document Management	1.4
Retirement Planner	11.2
Benefits Processing Replacement Programme (BPRP)	143[1]

[1] Including future commitments

Of the total investment in BPRP, £73 million out of the £143 million has been of value to the Department, notwithstanding the project's cancellation, as detailed in the Jobcentre Plus 2006-07 Resource Accounts. Part of the residual investment has been reimbursed to the Department, in work and kind, by the project's main provider.

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226508]

Jonathan Shaw: Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. The Department runs communications campaigns to support the delivery of its key policies to the appropriate audiences, and advertising is used where appropriate.

The effectiveness of advertising, as with all communications activity, is rigorously assessed according to the individual criteria and objectives set out for each initiative, and results are used to measure effectiveness and to inform future strategy. Methods include quantitative surveys carried out before, during and after advertising campaigns, qualitative assessment of creative work, and in-depth work with samples of those targeted by advertising. The Department is committed to setting robust evaluation metrics for all of its communications activity.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222134]

Jonathan Shaw: The spend by the DWP and its agencies with the Central Office of Information through its Public Relations Framework for the past three years is detailed in the following table. The data are held on a project basis.

All services requested through COI are procured on an open tender basis with suppliers from their approved range of rosters, following standard procurement processes and in line with EU directives.

DWP Business Unit/Agency	*PR Agency*	*Cost (£)*
FY 2005-06		
Jobcentre Plus	GCI	112
DWP Work and wellbeing PR	Fishburn Hedges	43

DWP Business Unit/Agency	PR Agency	Cost (£)
Jobcentre Plus corporate comms	Fishburn Hedges	300
Total		455
FY 2006-07		
DWP Communications Corporate	Red Consultancy	34
Child Support Agency	Fishburn Hedges	54
Jobcentre Plus corporate comms	Fishburn Hedges	242
Total		330
FY 2007-08		
DWP Communications Corporate	Manning Selvage and Lee	113
Jobcentre Plus corporate comms	Fishburn Hedges	326
Jobcentre Plus—Local Employment Partnership (LEP)	Fishburn Hedges	265
DWP Communications Corporate	Red	150
Total		854

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on employment, what the figures are for the second quarter of 2008 on the same basis as the figures contained in the Answer. [225148]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The information requested is in the following table.

	Quarter 2 2008		
	(i) Employment rate (percentage)	(ii) Working age employment	(iii) 16+ Employment
Foreign nationals	68.9	2,270,000	2,300,000
EU nationals	79.5	1,060,000	1,080,000
Non-EU nationals	61.7	1,200,000	1,220,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.
2. The figures provided in the tables are not seasonally adjusted. This means direct comparisons between different quarters are not possible.
3. Nationals from all 27 member states (excluding UK) are included in EU figures.
4. The totals for foreign nationals may not be equal to the sum of the corresponding numbers shown for EU and non-EU nationals due to rounding.
5. As these figures are based on a sample survey they are also subject to sampling variability.
6. It should be noted that the nationality question in the LFS is an undercount because:
a. it excludes those who have not been resident in the UK for six months;
b. it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent;
c. it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc);
d. it is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more.
7. Column (i) refers to the employment rate of working age people, that is the employment level of the working age population as a proportion of the total working age population. Column (ii) refers to the employment level of people of working age, females aged 16-59 and males aged 16-64. Column (iii) refers to the employment level of people aged 16 or over.
Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Industrial Health and Safety: Cemeteries

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to issue new guidance on health and safety in graveyards. [224600]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive is supporting the Ministry of Justice and representatives from across the burial industry in finalising guidance on how to manage the risk associated with unstable memorials. The final guidance is due to be discussed at this month's meeting of the Ministry of Justice's Burials and Cemeteries Advisory Group. Subject to agreement there, the intention is to publish in the coming weeks.

Social Security Benefits: Pensioners

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on each type of benefit for pensioners in each year from 1997 to 2007; and how much is forecast to be spent on each type of benefit in each year from 2008 to 2030. [209354]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is in the following tables.

£ million

	Outturn					
Great Britain, Nominal Terms	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
State Pension	33,586	35,603	37,802	38,745	41,922	44,367
Income Support for people over 60/Minimum Income Guarantee/ Pension Credit	3,721	3,566	3,725	4,035	4,417	4,405
Housing Benefit	3,781	3,842	3,926	4,108	4,378	4,728
Council Tax Benefit	1,080	1,125	1,162	1,228	1,324	1,418
Disability Living Allowance	1,373	1,529	1,685	1,847	2,045	2,184
Attendance Allowance	2,521	2,680	2,823	2,955	3,124	3,251
Invalid Care Allowance/Carer's Allowance	37	38	38	57	61	46
Widows'/Bereavement Benefits	139	135	129	120	119	152

£ million

	Outturn					
Great Britain, Nominal Terms	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
Winter Fuel Allowance	191	194	759	1,749	1,681	1,705
Age Related Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0
TV Licence	0	0	0	306	365	374
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits	288	290	290	305	315	324
Severe Disablement Allowance	136	144	144	163	165	163
Christmas Bonus	123	124	118	119	120	120
Social Fund	22	22	22	36	28	29
Incapacity Benefit (basic and earnings related)	668	431	161	3	0	0
Total Expenditure	47,666	49,724	52,786	55,775	60,064	63,268

£ million

	Outturn				Estimated Outturn	Forecast
Great Britain, Nominal Terms	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
State Pension	46,506	48,802	51,422	53,663	57,406	61,313
Income Support for people over 60/Minimum Income Guarantee/ Pension Credit	4,851	5,971	6,426	6,869	7,332	7,505
Housing Benefit	4,437	4,545	4,561	4,856	5,086	5,391
Council Tax Benefit	1,610	1,827	1,842	2,002	2,078	2,192
Disability Living Allowance	2,400	2,609	2,825	3,060	3,370	3,673
Attendance Allowance	3,457	3,674	3,924	4,149	4,438	4,668
Invalid Care Allowance/Carer's Allowance	36	38	36	39	46	52
Widows'/Bereavement Benefits	141	137	126	113	104	92
Winter Fuel Allowance	1,916	1,962	1,982	2,015	2,061	2,664
Age Related Payments	0	513	1,132	0	0	0
TV Licence	412	435	461	488	508	528
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits	311	331	332	342	348	372
Severe Disablement Allowance	170	124	128	135	144	153
Christmas Bonus	122	123	124	126	127	129
Social Fund	30	33	42	42	42	41
Incapacity Benefit (basic and earnings related)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	66,399	71,124	75,363	77,899	83,092	88,773

£ million

	Forecast		Projections			
Great Britain, Nominal Terms	2009-10	2010-11	2015-16	2020-21	2025-26	2030-31
State Pension	65,175	68,106	91,683	122,647	167,827	220,823
Income Support for people over 60/Minimum Income Guarantee/ Pension Credit	7,771	8,033	8,797	9,071	10,149	11,070
Housing Benefit	5,726	5,973	6,459	7,230	8,960	10,877
Council Tax Benefit	2,354	2,500	2,899	3,318	4,005	4,684
Disability Living Allowance	3,978	4,179	11,586	14,430	18,325	22,604
Attendance Allowance	4,888	5,066	0	0	0	0
Invalid Care Allowance/Carer's Allowance	58	65	68	63	157	199
Widows'/Bereavement Benefits	77	58	7	0	0	0
Winter Fuel Allowance	2,140	2,148	2,070	2,045	2,189	2,382
Age Related Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0
TV Licence	545	565	770	1,081	1,600	2,059
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits	387	396	476	533	589	640
Severe Disablement Allowance	158	160	155	139	98	69
Christmas Bonus	131	133	137	140	153	165
Social Fund	40	41	49	57	66	77
Incapacity Benefit (basic and earnings related)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	93,429	97,423	125,155	160,753	214,117	275,650

£ million

	Outturn					
Great Britain, 2008-09 Prices	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
State Pension	44,444	45,950	47,824	48,328	51,068	52,407
Income Support for people over 60/Minimum Income Guarantee/ Pension Credit	4,924	4,602	4,713	5,033	5,381	5,204
Housing Benefit	5,003	4,959	4,967	5,123	5,333	5,585
Council Tax Benefit	1,429	1,452	1,470	1,532	1,613	1,675
Disability Living Allowance	1,817	1,974	2,132	2,304	2,491	2,580
Attendance Allowance	3,336	3,459	3,571	3,686	3,806	3,840
Invalid Care Allowance/Carer's Allowance	49	50	49	71	75	54
Widows'/Bereavement Benefits	185	174	163	150	145	179
Winter Fuel Allowance	252	251	961	2,182	2,047	2,014
Age Related Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0
TV Licence	—	—	—	381	445	442
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits	381	375	367	380	383	383
Severe Disablement Allowance	180	186	182	203	202	192
Christmas Bonus	163	161	150	148	146	142
Social Fund	29	29	28	44	34	34
Incapacity Benefit (basic and earnings related)	884	556	203	4	—	—
Total Expenditure	63,076	64,175	66,779	69,570	73,168	74,732

£ million

	Outturn				Estimated Outturn	Forecast
Great Britain, 2008-09 Prices	2003-04	2004-05	2005/06	2006/07	2007-08	2008-09
State Pension	53,387	54,516	56,255	57,070	59,128	61,313
Income Support for people over 60/Minimum Income Guarantee/ Pension Credit	5,569	6,670	7,030	7,305	7,552	7,505
Housing Benefit	5,093	5,077	4,990	5,164	5,239	5,391
Council Tax Benefit	1,848	2,041	2,016	2,129	2,141	2,192
Disability Living Allowance	2,755	2,914	3,090	3,254	3,471	3,673

£ million

Great Britain, 2008-09 Prices	Outturn 2003-04	2004-05	2005/06	2006/-07	Estimate d Outturn 2007-08	Forecast 2008-09
Attendance Allowance	3,968	4,104	4,293	4,413	4,571	4,668
Invalid Care Allowance/Carer's Allowance	42	43	39	42	47	52
Widows'/Bereavement Benefits	162	154	138	120	107	92
Winter Fuel Allowance	2,199	2,192	2,168	2,143	2,123	2,664
Age Related Payments	0	573	1,238	0	0	0
TV Licence	473	486	504	519	523	528
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits	357	370	363	363	359	372
Severe Disablement Allowance	195	139	140	144	149	153
Christmas Bonus	140	137	136	134	131	129
Social Fund	35	36	46	45	43	41
Incapacity Benefit (basic and earnings related)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Expenditure	76,222	79,452	82,446	82,844	85,585	88,773

£ million

Great Britain, 2008-09 Prices	Forecast 2009-10	2010-11	2015-16	Projections 2020-21	2025-26	2030-31
State Pension	63,431	64,510	75,885	88,194	104,761	119,658
Income Support for people over 60/Minimum Income Guarantee/ Pension Credit	7,563	7,609	7,281	6,523	6,335	5,998
Housing Benefit	5,573	5,657	5,346	5,199	5,593	5,894
Council Tax Benefit	2,291	2,368	2,399	2,386	2,500	2,538
Disability Living Allowance	3,871	3,959	9,589	10,377	11,439	12,248
Attendance Allowance	4,757	4,798	—	—	—	—
Invalid Care Allowance/Carer's Allowance	57	62	56	45	98	108
Widows'/Bereavement Benefits	75	54	6	-	-	-
Age Related Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winter Fuel Allowance	2,083	2,035	1,713	1,471	1,366	1,291
TV Licence	531	535	637	777	999	1,116
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits	377	375	394	383	367	347
Severe Disablement Allowance	153	151	128	100	61	57
Christmas Bonus	127	126	113	101	95	90
Social Fund	39	39	41	41	41	42
Incapacity Benefit (basic and earnings related)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Expenditure	90,929	92,278	103,589	115,596	133,656	149,387

Notes:
1 All figures are consistent with Budget 2008, as well as expenditure information published on the internet at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp.
2 Figures are rounded to the nearest million pounds. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3 Responsibility for War Pensions passed to the Veterans Agency in 2002-03. Therefore this benefit is not included in the tables. Independent Living Fund (ILF) figures are also not included in the table as this benefit comes under Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) from 2008-09 onwards.
4. The state pension figure in the table includes the child element of the pensioner benefit.
5. Age related payments include one off payments made to pensioners over 65 years of age in 2004-05 and to people over 65 years and 70 years of age in 2005-06.
6. The projections of benefit expenditure from 2015-16 to 2030-31 take account of the reforms in the Pensions Act 2007. These are illustrative projections, in that they are designed to show the overall fiscal sustainability of benefit policy, as it stands at 2010-11 (the end of the current planning period), along with any future changes to benefits that have already been decided upon, under a particular set of reasonable assumptions. Legislation provides that earnings uprating of BSP will begin in the next Parliament. These projections assume it commences in 2012. In addition, the projections are part of a series showing a broad path of expenditure up to 2050-51. The projections shown are for the United Kingdom, unlike other forecasts up to and including 2010-11 which only cover Great Britain : for TV Licence payments all figures cover the UK.
Source:
Departmental Accounting and statistical data.

Statutory Sick Pay

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employers have incurred a penalty for refusing or repeatedly refusing to pay statutory sick pay in the last two years; what the level of the penalty imposed was in each case; and how long after the initial claim was made by the employee was the fine for refusal imposed in each case. [226318]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply

HMRC set up a centralised system to record Statutory Payments penalties on 1 April 2008. Since then no penalties have been recorded for the offence specified.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the difference in council tax for a band D property is between each two-tier authority and its nearest unitary authority. [226547]

John Healey: Details of the level of B and D council tax in England are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctax089t6.xls

Departmental Executive Agencies

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many agencies were sponsored by her Department or its predecessors in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228509]

Mr. Khan: The Department's three Executive Agencies that it sponsors are the Fire Service College, the Planning Inspectorate and the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

In 1997-98, the majority of the Department for Communities and Local Government's functions were the responsibility of the Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR). At that time DETR sponsored eight executive agencies, most of which are now the responsibility of the Department for Transport.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with the Audit Commission on overseeing cost savings from the FiReControl project; and if she will make a statement. [227313]

Mr. Khan: We have had no discussions with the Audit Commission in relation to cost savings from FiReControl.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in the implementation of the FireGuard project; and if she will make a statement. [227842]

Mr. Khan: Fireguard is a collaborative procurement between 33 fire and rescue authorities. We understand that the Project Board meets on 27 October, at which decisions will be taken as to whether a contract will be taken forward.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* fire and rescue services and *(b)* fire authorities on the disaggregation of regional funding for resilience issues to individual fire and rescue services; and if she will make a statement. [227843]

Mr. Khan: We published on 8 July the FiReControl Business Case Part 1: "The Regional Case" and a copy was placed in the House Library. This agreed in principle to meet the costs of running the regional control centres in regions not expected to make savings.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget for each fire and rescue service in England and Wales is for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [228013]

Mr. Khan: The following figures show net current expenditure on 'Fire and Rescue Services' 2008-09 (from revenue account budgets) for all English Fire and Rescue Services. Figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are not yet available. Figures for Fire and Rescue Services in Wales are the responsibility of the devolved Administration.

Net current expenditure on 'Fire and Rescue Services': Revenue account budget 2008-09

	£ million
Greater London Authority	462.946
Greater Manchester Fire and CD Authority	132.075
Merseyside Fire and CD Authority	75.511
South Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	66.721
Tyne and Wear Fire and CD Authority	61.925
West Midlands Fire and CD Authority	115.616
West Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	91.652
Avon Combined Fire Authority	46.479
Bedfordshire Combined Fire Authority	29.172
Berkshire Combined Fire Authority	38.074
Buckinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	26.370
Cambridgeshire Combined Fire Authority	26.661
Cheshire Combined Fire Authority	41.086
Cleveland Combined Fire Authority	32.952
Derbyshire Combined Fire Authority	35.016
Devon and Somerset Combined Fire Authority	71.859
Dorset Combined Fire Authority	23.262
Durham Combined Fire Authority	32.122
East Sussex Combined Fire Authority	34.732
Essex Combined Fire Authority	77.415
Hampshire Combined Fire Authority	68.290
Hereford and Worcester Combined Fire Authority	32.797
Humberside Combined Fire Authority	51.638
Kent Combined Fire Authority	73.653
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	62.175
Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority	34.541
North Yorkshire Combined Fire Authority	39.814
Nottinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	44.486
Shropshire Combined Fire Authority	16.128
Staffordshire Combined Fire Authority	38.709
Wiltshire Combined Fire Authority	18.175
Cornwall	21.625
Cumbria	23.443
Gloucestershire	21.913
Hertfordshire	40.840
Lincolnshire	28.076
Norfolk	31.275
Northamptonshire	22.000
Northumberland	15.996
Oxfordshire	25.438
Suffolk	24.781
Surrey	40.234

Net current expenditure on 'Fire and Rescue Services': Revenue account budget 2008/09

	£ million
Warwickshire	22.767
West Sussex	36.354
Isle of Wight UA	6.786
Isles of Scilly	0.348
Total	2,363.928

Fire Services: Floods

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* fire and rescue services and *(b)* fire authorities on section 9 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, in respect of a statutory duty to assist with flooding incidents; and if she will make a statement. [227844]

Mr. Khan: Government are considering the case for a statutory duty on the Fire and Rescue Service for flood rescue following the publication of Sir Michael Pitt's overarching review of the lessons learned from the 2007 floods. We are currently consulting with the UK Search and Rescue Group on this matter, of which the Chief Fire Officers' Association, and other local responders with flood rescue expertise, are members.

FireBuy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the take-up of FireBuy. [227610]

Mr. Khan: FireBuy was established as the national procurement body for the English Fire and Rescue Service in March 2006. A large number of fire and rescue authorities are now using the contracts and framework arrangements set up by FireBuy. These include smoke alarms, hand-held radios, and a range of specialist fire vehicles and appliances. Other national contract arrangements, for items such as clothing, personal protective equipment and breathing apparatus, are now becoming available and are also likely to be widely used by fire and rescue authorities, as well as a range of other public sector bodies.

Housing: Floods

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households displaced by flooding in summer 2007 have not yet been able to return to their homes, broken down by *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* household size. [226465]

John Healey: As at 30 June, we estimate that approximately 3,400 households remained wholly or partially displaced from their homes following the floods of summer 2007. Around 28 per cent. of those not back in their homes at the end of May had returned by the end of June. A breakdown of the figures by local authority area is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/895062.pdf

More up-to-date estimates of households still displaced will be published shortly, once we have completed further work to assess their robustness.

The Department does not collect information on the size of households still wholly or partially displaced from their homes.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost was of insuring a home against *(a)* coastal and *(b)* inland flooding in each of the last five years. [226466]

John Healey: We do not hold this information. Flooding risk is usually included as part of general domestic insurance policies and the cost of such policies is affected by many factors.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of homeowners at risk of flooding have flood insurance. [226467]

John Healey: We do not hold this information. However, the Association of British Insurers has estimated that 93 per cent. of all homeowners have home buildings insurance in place and that 75 per cent. of all households have home contents insurance in place.

Housing: Insulation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance she plans to provide for people whose homes have solid walls to provide wall insulation; and if she will make a statement. [224894]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Finding innovative, cost effective and attractive ways of insulating hard to treat homes will be core to both our carbon saving and fuel poverty alleviation ambitions. The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), although specifically designed to deliver carbon savings as cost effectively as possible, includes incentives to encourage suppliers to promote more costly measures appropriate for hard to treat homes, such as solid wall insulation. This has resulted in some 40,000 solid wall homes benefiting from insulation in the last three years, with a further 100,000 expected to be treated by 2011.

Equally, we continue to assess innovative solid wall products for inclusion within Warm Front, the Government's flagship fuel poverty alleviation programme. There will also be a focus on improving the energy efficiency of hard to treat properties, including via solid wall insulation, through the forthcoming Green Neighbourhoods scheme, announced by Hilary Benn in April; and the new £350 million community energy saving obligation on energy suppliers and electricity generators announced by the Prime Minister on 11 September.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to meet local authority leaders to discuss action to protect local authorities from the effects of the insolvency of Icelandic banks; and if she will make a statement. [227209]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 34WS.

Local Government Finance: Students

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what additional support her Department makes available to local authorities with large student populations. [228021]

John Healey: The Department has recently published research entitled "Evidence Gathering: Housing in Multiple Occupation and possible planning responses—Final Report". This independent research sets out a series of cross cutting measures that could tackle and stop the complex causes and negative symptoms of concentrations of houses in multiple occupation including those in student neighbourhoods. The measures include new planning mechanisms and the widespread adoption of a number of the best common sense local solutions. We are now considering the report's conclusions and how best to take forward the recommendations.

In terms of local authority funding, formula grant is largely distributed using the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the authority, together with the number of band-D equivalent properties (taxbase) within the authority's area. In order to calculate the taxbase, we take into account factors such as the number of student exemptions in the authority. For the 2008-09 to 2010-11 settlement, we implemented changes to better reflect the likely number of student exemptions in an area in this calculation.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission was first informed of the financial vulnerability of Icelandic banking institutions. [228198]

John Healey: Neither my Department nor the Audit Commission monitors the performance or creditworthiness of any investment institution on behalf of local government; that is a matter for the local authorities concerned, as the Department's investment guidance, published in 2004, makes very clear.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the financial exposure of each *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* fire authorities to the Icelandic banking crisis is, expressed in cash terms. [228227]

John Healey: We have been working closely with the Local Government Association (LGA) to assess the position of local authorities that have deposits in Icelandic banks, and to ensure that any authority facing serious short-term difficulty is offered support and expertise from experts drawn from local government itself.

The LGA has been compiling the information supplied by individual local authorities. It has published on its website a list of authorities that have assets in Icelandic Banks, together with the amount, at

www.lga.gov.uk.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the financial exposure of *(a)* local authority private finance initiative schemes and *(b)* housing associations to the Icelandic banking crisis. [228229]

Mr. Khan: The positions of contractors and senior lenders under standardised PFI contracts are structured so that, if difficulties occur, changes can be made to the parties, within defined limits. No central assessment of particular funders has been carried out. However, if a local authority were to approach this Department with concerns about a project we sponsor, we would provide advice and support as appropriate.

There are around 2,000 housing associations in England—many of which are organisations of significant financial size who will, as a matter of course, keep monies on deposit. We are currently working to establish the extent to which associations are exposed and will continue to monitor the position closely. Housing Associations have a statutory duty to inform their regulator the Housing Corporation if they face any significant difficulties.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Air Pollution

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of air quality in the UK's most polluted areas in each of the last eight years. [227095]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

Since 1997, local authorities have had a statutory duty to review current, and likely future, air quality within their area against national objectives for seven air pollutants. Where any pollutants are exceeding, or are likely to exceed, an air quality objective, the local authority must declare an air quality management area, and prepare and implement an action plan of measures to work towards meeting the relevant objectives. About 200 local authorities across the UK have declared air quality management areas, primarily for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter (PM_{10}).

DEFRA also undertakes its own air quality monitoring across a number of national networks. Information on these, as well as information on local authorities with air quality management areas and an annual report on DEFRA's air quality monitoring activities, is available in the Air Quality Archive at:

www.airquality.co.uk.

Carbon Emissions: Local Authorities

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what basis the initial allocation to local authorities will be made under the carbon reduction commitment; and what mechanisms will be put in place to reward local authorities which had reduced their energy consumption prior to the introduction of the scheme. [225210]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The Government will not set allocations for individual organisations participating in the carbon reduction commitment. Instead the Government will set a cap for the total number of allowances available for all participants. Organisations will be required to surrender sufficient allowances to cover their annual emissions and may purchase these through an annual sale or auction, or on the secondary market. Organisations will therefore decide on the basis of their emissions reduction strategy how many allowances they need to buy. There will be a three year introductory phase where participants will be able to purchase unrestricted quantities of allowances at a set price. After the introductory phase a cap will be set on the number of allowances available and the market will determine the price of allowances. The sale or auction revenues will be recycled to organisations according to their position in the carbon reduction commitment league table.

Early action to reduce their energy consumption will be recognised in determining an organisation's position in league table. The two actions that are recognised by the league table are the voluntary installation of automatic metering and accreditation with the Carbon Trust Standard.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many university *(a)* applicants and *(b)* successful applicants there were to study (i) medicine, (ii) engineering, (iii) physics, (iv) chemistry, (v) veterinary medicine, (vi) accountancy, (vii) law, (viii) dentistry and (ix) economics courses, broken down by (A) sex and (B) socio-economic class in each year since 1992. [226585]

Mr. Lammy: The available information covers the years between 2002 and 2007 and is contained in tables, copies of which have been placed in Libraries. The National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) was introduced in 2002 and replaced social class. The two classifications are not directly comparable, therefore figures for years earlier than 2002 have not been provided. Comparable data for 2008 will not be available until January 2009.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the Answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 854W, on catering, how much *(a)* Brakes Vegetable Suet and *(b)* Trenwax is used by the catering service each week. [228192]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons catering service does not record usage of foodstuffs or other commodities on a weekly basis. However, over the six months from April to September 2008, the Department purchased a total of *(a)* 252 kg of Brakes Vegetable Suet and *(b)* 50 lt of Trenwax.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption: China

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in the last six months in reaching agreement with the Chinese authorities about a protocol to enable British citizens to adopt Chinese children. [227801]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The China Center of Adoption Affairs (CCAA) has taken the position that adoptions under Chinese domestic law by British citizens resident in China cannot proceed without a guarantee of automatic conferral of British citizenship on the child.

Although UK adoption law has provisions that recognise adoptions effected in China, British nationality legislation provides that a child will not be a British citizen if the adoption is not made under the 1993 "Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption", or the adoptive parents were not habitually resident in-the United Kingdom at the time the adoption was certified under the convention. Children in such cases can apply for registration as a British citizen at the Home Secretary's discretion under section 3(1) of the British Nationality Act 1981.

In light of the position taken by the CCAA, the Home Office has considered whether it would be possible to give an indication to the Chinese authorities of the likely outcome of an application for citizenship by child adopted in China. The Home Office concluded that this is not possible because the Home Secretary is unable to fetter her discretion by undertaking to grant citizenship in advance of receiving an application.

Citizenship is a matter for the Home Office. However, officials from the Department for Children, Schools and Families are working with Home Office colleagues and Foreign and Commonwealth Office representatives in Beijing, to try and establish with the CCAA a mutually acceptable way forward, through the provision of text for a certificate which may be used in such adoption applications.

Children: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he expects the UK Council for Child Internet Safety to develop advice on child internet safety accessible to parents and children via the DirectGov information network, as recommended in the Byron Review; [227193]

(2) what plans he has to develop a public information and awareness campaign on child internet safety; [227194]

(3) by what date he expects the UK Council for Child Internet Safety to have agreed a kitemarking system for parental control computer software; [227196]

(4) what progress has been made in appointing an advisory group to the UK Council for Child Internet Safety; and if he will make a statement. [227197]

Jim Knight: The June 2008 Byron Review Action Plan commits the Government to working with Council partners to develop an authoritative 'one stop shop'

website on child internet safety by spring 2009. Initial development has already begun. The 'one stop shop' must be a trusted and central portal for high quality internet safety information, with signposts to the wide range of support and services provided by Council members. This will be developed in close consultation with the Council.

The June 2008 Byron Review Action Plan commits the Government to:

include e-safety in its £9 million child safety awareness campaign over the next three years;

ensure that Parent Know How funded help lines are able to signpost parents concerned about e-safety to sources of further information; and

work with CEOP and other Council members to launch an e-safety week in 2009.

The Government will work with Council members to ensure that this activity is linked with campaigns that are already planned or under way, by Government and stakeholders.

The Home Office and Ofcom have been working with the British Standards Institute (BSI) to develop a Publicly Available Specification (PAS) for assessing the quality of filtering software for computers. This has already been delivered, and discussions are under way with major industry players about the time scale for submitting software for testing.

There are no plans to establish an advisory group to the UK Council for Child Internet Safety. As recommended in Dr. Byron's report, on 29 September the Government announced the appointment of senior representatives from across industry, the third sector, law enforcement and the devolved administrations to the UK Council's Executive Board.

The Board will play a crucial role in the governance and strategic direction of all Council activity. It will provide expert guidance, inject momentum into the work of the Council and provide the necessary level of challenge and scrutiny to the working groups. The Board will be the key driving force behind the development and implementation of the Child Internet Safety Strategy in spring 2009.

Further information on Board membership can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0215

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much the Government spent on child internet safety campaigns in each of the last three years; and how much he expects to be spent in 2008-09; [227195]

(2) what the cost of establishing the UK Council for Child Internet Safety has been; how much he expects it to cost in 2008-09; and how much of the funding will come from *(a)* industry, *(b)* his Department, *(c)* the Home Office and *(d)* the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; [227198]

(3) how many full-time equivalent employees work in the secretariat of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety; and from which Government departments secretariat staff are drawn; [227199]

(4) if he will make it his policy to place in the Library copies of the minutes from each of the meetings held by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety. [227200]

Jim Knight: It is not possible to provide an accurate breakdown for each of the last three years as the majority of Government spending is provided as part of wider funding to schools for the provision of technology. This has been supported by comprehensive guidance to all schools on the importance of internet safety.

Specific initiatives to raise public awareness of internet safety include developing a dedicated training module for UK Online Centres and an investment of £1 million in the Know It All range of CDs for parents to promote internet safety in the home. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) have spent £454,000 from 2006-08 on its ThinkUKnow internet safety education programme.

Government have dedicated £9 million over 2008-11 to a safety awareness campaign for children that includes internet safety.

There are various costs involved in establishing the UK Council, including launch costs and hosting the first meeting of the Executive Board. To date the Government have spent approximately £25,000 on these activities. This does not include the cost of officials working within the secretariat.

Moving forward, delivery of Dr. Byron's recommendations will largely rely on building digital safety into planned activities and services that are already funded, such as £9 million on a safety awareness campaign for children that will include internet safety. We recognise that there may be additional costs associated with delivering some of Dr. Byron's recommendations, and we will consider how these can be funded as they are identified.

The Government are in the process of establishing the "properly resourced" secretariat recommended by Dr. Byron to support the work of the council. There are currently three full-time equivalent officials in place with plans to expand to five officials shortly. We are also in discussions with partner agencies on additional part time secondments to support the council and welcome their support.

The level of staffing will be reviewed in the coming months as the work of the council is further defined.

The Government want to be open about the work of the council and there are a number of ways to disseminate information about its work. We will consult with council members and consider the best way for everyone, including parents, to be kept informed about progress on improving online safety for children.

Departmental Information

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what types of data have been sold by his Department under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222005]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Core information produced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) can be re-used free of charge under the terms of the PSI Click-Use Licence which is administered by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations. Core information produced by DCSF can also be re-used under the terms of the Value Added Licence which is also administered by OPSI. Re-use of

the information under the terms of the Value Added Licence may incur a charge based on the type and amount of information. During the financial year 2007-08 the following categories of information were made available for re-use by DCSF and incurred a charge: some publications relating to: Children and Their Primary Schools; Identification, Referral and Tracking Software, and Models of Adult Learning; some photographs; and certain research reports.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advertising campaigns his Department has run since June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each of these. [227037]

Ed Balls: Promotional campaigns, including those using advertising, are funded from the Department's central Advertising and Publicity Budget and from individual programme budgets held by policy directorates.

Advertising is part of a full integrated promotional campaign. The question refers specifically to advertising and we have been able to separate the Department's spend on advertising, as this is centrally placed through the Central Office of Information. The cost of recruitment advertising for the Department has not been included as it is not possible to establish a definitive figure, except at disproportionate expense. The Department's advertising spend and that of its predecessor (DFES) since 2004 is set out as follows, with a breakdown of individual campaigns. All figures exclude VAT.

DFES advertising billing 2004/05

Campaign title	*Media total (£)*
EMA 2004/05	3,853,254
Sure Start Month 2004/05	127,002
Adult Basic Skills Gremlins 2004/05	4,664,833
Teenage Pregnancy (DFES) 2004/05	980,127
Student Finance 2004/05	886,727
Fast Track Teaching 2004/05	69,342
Foundation Degrees 2004/05	483,463
DFES Childcare 2004/05	281,269
Need to Know 2004/05	275,116
DFES Parents Centre 2004/05	172,284
DFES total	11,793,417

DFES advertising billing 2005/06

Campaign title	*Media total (£)*
DFES Sure Start 2005/06	2,527
EMA 2005/06	1,261,310
Teenage Pregnancy 2005/06	1,298,991
Childcare Recruitment 05/06	590,758
DFES Adult Basic Skills—Gremlins 2005/06	1,514,280
DFES Adult Basic Skills—Gremlins Miscellaneous 2005/06	125,687
Student Finance 2005/06	2,130,459
DFES Parents Centre 2005/06	142,771
ECM Press Advertising 2005/06	1,984
Foundation Degrees 2005/06	634,353
Fast Track Teaching 2005/06	17,806
DFES Parenting Franchise (Direct Gov Launch) 2005/06	439,878
DFES Education and Learning—Launch Campaign 2005/06	85,479
Need to Know 2005/06	53,971
DFES total	8,300,254

DFES advertising billing 2006/07

Campaign title	*Media total (£)*
Student Finance 2006/07	2,476,295
Adult Basic Skills 06/07	1,805,199
Teenage Pregnancy 2006/07	1,533,980
Childcare Recruitment 2006/07	404,664
Children and Young People's Workforce Insert 2006/07	45,123
Drugs—Frank 2006/07 (Home Office project also)	245,629
Total	6,510,890

DCSF advertising billing 2007/08

Campaign title	*Media total (£)*
Childcare 2007/08	134,943
City Challenge 2007/08	52,707
DCSF Sponsored Parenting Phase 1 2007/08	24,568
STEM 2007/08	285,075
MFL 2007/08	87,209
School Food Trust 2Q07/08	377,419
Frank 2007/08 (DCSF only)	632,533
Teenage Pregnancy 2007/08	1,499,163
Skills Pledge June 2007	34,781
Diplomas 2007/08	1,459,491
Total	4,587,889

DCSF advertising billing 2008/09 (costs invoiced to date)

Campaign title	*Media total[1] (£)*
Diplomas 2008/09	867,615
Who Do We Think We Are 2008/09	2,433
National Year of Reading 2008/09	108,984
Teenage Pregnancy 2008/09	291,616
DCSF—MFL 2008/09	854,408
DCSF Summer Holidays Affordable Childcare 2008/09	202,543
DCSF Media Only Campaigns 2008/09	19,973
Total	2,347,572

[1] 2008/09 figures refer to costs invoiced to date and not actual DCSF spend.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227484]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children Schools and Families has conducted one citizens' jury and 11 related deliberative debates since 1 July 2007 to ensure that the views of parents and young people were reflected in the development and implementation of the Children's Plan.

The Department organised a citizens' jury at Bristol Brunei Academy on 6 September 2007 at a cost of £57,047 including VAT. 38 people participated, including children, young people and teachers from the academy; and parents and local practitioners working with children. The event focused on education and children services and was attended by two Ministers.

The Department followed this citizens' jury with three sets of deliberative debates with members of the public and education professionals.

The first set of deliberative debates was held on 29 September 2007, with four events running simultaneously in London, Leeds, Portsmouth and Birmingham. These events formed part of the consultative process for the Children's Plan. The total cost of the events was £467,704 including VAT. Around 400 young people, parents, teachers and those working with children and young people were involved. A Minister was present at each of the events.

The second set was held on 8 March 2008, with four events again running in London, Leeds, Portsmouth and Birmingham. The events focused on policy areas in the Children's Plan. The events cost £296,026 including VAT. Around 240 people attended, including parents, young people and educational professionals. A Minister was present at each of the events.

The last set took place on 13 September 2008 at a cost of £551,013. The events were held in London, Leeds and Birmingham and were attended by around 300 people including parents, local practitioners and representatives of stakeholder organisations. The themes discussed were Parents as Partners in Learning; the Childcare Strategy and Parental Complaints. Five Ministers attended the events.

Departmental Programmes

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the programmes aggregated as Other Miscellaneous programmes in each section of table 8.3, pages 88 to 89, of his Department's 2008 annual report. [224478]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The following list shows the "Other Miscellaneous programmes" included in table 8.3 of the 2008 departmental annual report.

List of Other Miscellaneous programmes

Schools

Schools Capital Programme Team: Revenue Costs of Capital/ Religious Education Inspections

Assisted Places Scheme

Music and Dance Capital

General Teaching Council Teacher Training

Medical Fees and Services

Education Business Links/Study Support Play

Miscellaneous Schools Capital

Invest to Save Budget (Resource)Creative Environmental Networks Programme Resource

Premature Retirement Compensation

Threshold (School Funding Division)

Teacher Development Agency

National School for School Leadership

Partnership for Schools

Activity Adventure Licensing Authority

Parenting Support Commissioners Toolkit

Grammar Schools: Admissions

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the changes in grammar school admission numbers consequent upon the Building Schools for the Future programme in *(a)* Gravesham constituency and *(b)* nationally in the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [221895]

Jim Knight: Each local authority assesses its pupil capacity just before entering the Building Schools for the Future programme. An estimated national figure for the overall programme is not available as local authorities are at different entry stages.

In Gravesham, there will be a reduction of around 60 pupils in each of the two grammar schools under the programme.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the evidential basis is for his Department's statement that higher national key stage test results are not a result of teaching to the test, as stated on page 3 of the Government response to the Third Report of the Children, Schools and Families Committee, HC 1003; and if he will make a statement. [227210]

Jim Knight: Standards in our schools are rising, and we do not accept that this is the result of teaching to the test. Results have improved significantly since 1997 for 11 and 14-year-olds, and those results are in turn reflected in higher GCSE results.

The public can have complete faith in the rigour of our testing and examination system which is overseen independently and impartially by the new regulator, Ofqual. School performance is inspected by the independent Ofsted, school examinations set by the independent Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and educational statistics produced and overseen by the Office for National Statistics, now given even greater independence by this Government.

We are gathering evidence about teaching to the test, and exploring whether excessive time is spent on test preparation. The expert group that my hon. Friend the Secretary of State has brought together to advise on the changes to assessment announced on 14 October will also be looking at the advice to be provided to schools to ensure that preparation for national curriculum tests at Key Stage 2 is proportionate, educationally appropriate, and that the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum is not inhibited.

Pupils: Languages

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there are in which 10 or more different languages are spoken by pupils as their first language. [226440]

Jim Knight: The information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

School Meals

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Department is taking to ensure the provision of high quality hot meals in schools. [227961]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the School Food Trust have a wide programme to ensure the provision of high quality hot meals in schools. New food-based nutritional standards were introduced in September 2006 for school lunches and from September 2007 for other school food. Nutrient-based standards were introduced for school lunches in September 2008 for primary schools and from September 2009 for secondary and special schools.

We are investing over £650 million between 2005 and 2011 to help improve school food and keep school lunch prices down. This includes £220 million over the three years 2005-06 to 2007-08 to assist authorities and schools in improving school lunches and other school food; £240 million between 2008 and 2011 to support the costs of school lunches; £150 million capital funding to build and refurbish kitchen and dining facilities; and funding to establish FEAST centres to train catering staff. We are also providing an extra £6 million over the next three years for the School Food Trust to promote healthy food to young people and raise take-up.

Schools: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools use accredited filtering services on internet software; [227190]

(2) what percentage of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have acceptable use policies for ICT; and how often schools are advised by his Department to review these guidelines; [227191]

(3) what *(a)* training and *(b)* information on e-safety is provided to new teachers. [227192]

Jim Knight: Schools have devolved responsibility and funding in this area supported by guidance from the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (Becta). Schools recognise the importance of providing an accredited service and are well aware of their duty of care to both their staff and pupils.

Most schools choose to have their connectivity provided through either their local authority or a Regional Broadband Consortia (RBC). 56 per cent. of local authorities have access to an accredited service provider and 50 per cent. of RBCs are accredited through Becta's accreditation scheme.

The Government, through Becta, encourage all schools should use an accredited service or software product to ensure the safety of children online.

80 per cent. of primary schools and 90 per cent. of secondary schools have an acceptable use policy (AUP) for pupils that provide guidelines on how to use ICT equipment and the internet. Schools are encouraged to have written ICT strategies and review these on an annual basis.

Updated guidance to support schools in this area is published regularly by the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (Becta).

New teachers entering the profession have to pass the ICT skills test and meet the professional standards for new teachers. One of the key standards in this area is that teachers must

"be aware of the current legal requirements, national policies and guidance on the safeguarding and promotion of the well-being of children and young people".

The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) supports the teacher training organisations with advice and guidance on this standard which makes specific reference to the Byron review.

In addition to their published guidance TDA has, in partnership with Becta and Microsoft, funded the production of resources for KS3 on e-safety for schools. The materials were originally targeted at new teachers—they have been sent to every teacher training organisation—but have since been adapted for use by any adult working with children in schools. Similar resources for KS2 are being developed.

These resources are in addition to materials already produced by Childnet, Becta, CEOP and other agencies.

Following the recommendation in the Byron review, consideration is also being given to including e-safety questions within the ICT skills test. The current format of the test is not an ideal vehicle for testing an understanding of e-safety issues so adaptations will have to be made and tested.

Teachers: Pay

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether academies may pay teachers more than analogous salaries paid by neighbouring community schools. [225165]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* Academy funding agreements allow for their governing bodies to set their own pay and conditions for staff rather than following national pay and conditions.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Death: Asbestos

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people died from an asbestos-related condition in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [224752]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

There are no data available at the constituency level.

Deaths from mesothelioma, 1997-2005

The number of deaths from mesothelioma for South Tyneside, the North East and for England is given in the following table.

	South Tyneside	*North East*	*England*
1997	15	126	1,181
1998	12	100	1,334
1999	8	119	1,406
2000	15	123	1,425
2001	18	154	1,630
2002	9	127	1,622
2003	8	112	1,642
2004[1]	15	134	1,731
2005[1]	10	159	1,787

[1] Provisional

Source:
Health and Safety Executive British Mesothelioma Register

Deaths from lung cancer due to asbestos

Lung cancer deaths caused by asbestos are clinically indistinguishable from those caused by other agents such as tobacco smoke. It is estimated that about the same number of lung cancer deaths due to asbestos occur each year as mesothelioma deaths.

Deaths with asbestosis specified as underlying cause, 1997-2005[1]

The number of deaths where asbestosis was specified as the underlying cause of death in South Tyneside, the North East, and the United Kingdom each year from 1997 is given in the following table.

	South Tyneside	*North East*	*England*
1997	3	10	55
1998	0	8	49
1999	0	10	55
2000	0	13	57
2001	1	14	68
2002	2	20	94
2003	5	19	96
2004[2]	3	19	83
2005[2]	0	15	107

[1] Excluding the small number of cases which also mention mesothelioma
[2] Provisional
Source:
Health and Safety Executive British Asbestosis Register

Death: Mesothelioma

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people died from mesothelioma in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [224753]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

There are no mesothelioma data at the constituency leve'.

The following table shows the number of mesothelioma deaths for South Tyneside, the North East and for England:

	South Tyneside	*North East*	*England*
1997	15	126	1,181
1998	12	100	1,334
1999	8	119	1,406
2000	15	123	1,425
2001	18	154	1,630
2002	9	127	1,622
2003	8	112	1,642
2004[1]	15	134	1,731
2005[1]	10	159	1,787

[1] Provisional
Source:
Health and Safety Executive British Mesothelioma Register

Immigration: Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of inward migrants to the UK intending to stay for 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in *(a)* each year for which figures are available and *(b)* each quarter since 2004. [227937]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of inward migrants to the UK intending to stay for 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in each year for which figures are available and for each quarter since 2004. (227937)

Table 1, attached, gives an estimate of international immigration for work-related reasons between 1977 and 2006. For all years apart from 1995, these estimates include migrants with a definite job to go to and those who are looking for work. Table 2 provides quarterly estimates since 2004.

Both tables are based solely on data from the International Passenger Survey.

Table 1: Migration for work related reasons—Time series 1977-2006 International Migration, estimates from the International Passenger Survey inflow—United Kingdom

	Estimate (thousand)
1977	31
1978	36
1979	42
1980	44
1981	38
1982	32
1983	34
1984	36
1985	48
1986	45
1987	45
1988	53
1989	51
1990	70
1991	54
1992	58
1993	66
1994	94
1995	50
1996	105
1997	99
1998	135
1999	151
2000	158
2001	165
2002	163
2003	165
2004	215
2005	227
2006	214

Note:
Work related reasons includes migrants with a "Definite job" and those "Looking for Work". For 1995 only, estimates of those "Looking for work" were included in "Other reasons for migration".

Table 2: Migration for work related reasons—Time series 2004-07 International Migration, estimates from the International Passenger Survey inflow—United Kingdom

	Quarter	*Estimate (thousand)*
2004	Q1	36
	Q2	53
	Q3	79
	Q4	46
2005	Q1	50
	Q2	53

Table 2: Migration for work related reasons—Time series 2004-07 International Migration, estimates from the International Passenger Survey inflow—United Kingdom

	Quarter	Estimate (thousand)
	Q3	69
	Q4	54
2006	Q1	45
	Q2	55
	Q3	74
	Q4	40
2007	Q1	55
	Q2	55

Note:
The figures for 2007 are provisional and may change slightly when data for the full 2007 calendar year are published.

Unemployment: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people living in *(a)* Westmorland and Lonsdale and *(b)* Cumbria were unemployed in each of the last 12 months. [227841]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people living in (a) Westmorland and Lonsdale and (b) Cumbria were unemployed in each of the last 12 months. (227841)

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics for local areas using the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The APS estimates for Westmorland and Lonsdale and Cumbria are only available for rolling 4 quarter periods. The latest available estimates cover the 12 months ending September 2007 and December 2007 and are provided in Table 1.

Table 2 gives the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in Westmorland and Lonsdale and Cumbria for each of the last twelve months.

These figures along with a wide range of other labour market data for parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are also published on the Office for National Statistics' Nomis® website:

www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1: Number of persons unemployed[1] resident in Westmorland and Lonsdale and Cumbria

Thousand

12 months ending	Westmorland and Lonsdale	Cumbria
September 2007	2	11
December 2007[2]	****2	****9

[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See following Guide to Quality.
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 = CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
Source:
Annual Population Survey

Table 2: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Westmorland and Lonsdale and Cumbria

	Westmorland and Lonsdale	Cumbria
October 2007	251	4,629
November 2007	245	4,586
December 2007	236	4,585
January 2007	261	5,009
February 2007	296	5,115
March 2007	294	5,006
April 2007	288	4,972
May 2007	263	4,838
June 2007	269	4,788
July 2007	291	4,996
August 2007	302	5,217
September 2007	298	5,286

Source:
Job Centre Plus Administrative System

TREASURY

Bank Services

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what provisions are in place to guarantee the funds of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* companies who have received the proceeds from the sale of their homes, or other large transactions, into law firms' client accounts in an insolvent bank; [228193]

(2) whether individuals will be able to claim the £50,000 deposit guarantee on the funds in their own account and on their deposits in a law firm client account in circumstances where such accounts are held with the same bank; [228194]

(3) whether the £50,000 bank deposit guarantee cap will apply to clients with funds in law firms' client accounts. [228195]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for making the rules of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), including the rule change which increased the compensation limit for bank deposits to £50,000, and the rules which set out how claims in respect of sums held in client accounts are to be treated. The increased compensation limit applies in relation to all claims in respect of protected deposits. The rules on the treatment of claims in respect of sums held in client accounts are set out in the FSA Handbook which is available on the FSA website and guidance is available on the FSCS website. The FSA consultation paper on the review of FSCS limits issued on 3 October includes a section discussing the issue of temporary high deposit balances.

Financial Services: Regulation

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role his Department played in discussions leading to the decision of the Financial Services Authority of 18 September 2008 to prohibit short selling in financial institutions. [227805]

Ian Pearson: The UK Tripartite authorities, HM Treasury, the Bank of England, and the Financial Services Authority (FSA), have worked, and continue to work, together to take all necessary steps to ensure the stability of the UK financial system. As was the case with

previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

HM Treasury welcomes the short selling measures that the FSA has taken against the backdrop of the present turbulence in the markets. The FSA operates within a single legislative framework; independent of Government; separate from the conduct of monetary policy by the Bank of England; and accountable to HM Treasury, Parliament, regulated firms and consumers. The Government do not have a general power of direction over the FSA.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals in Northern Ireland pay more income tax than before following the abolition of the 10 pence band as modified by the changes announced on 13 May 2008. [227222]

Mr. Timms: The removal of the 10p rate is part of a package of reforms announced in Budget 2007 that also included changes to tax credits, which are awarded based on family income. Due to a small sample size for Northern Ireland it is not possible to produce a reliable estimate of the number of households that pay more net tax as a result of those changes and the subsequent increase in personal allowances announced on 13 May 2008.

National Insurance Fund

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* benefit expenditure, *(b)* balance, *(c)* surplus above one-sixth of annual benefit expenditure and *(d)* revenue of the National Insurance Fund was in each year since 1997; [227663]

(2) how much the Government has borrowed from the National Insurance Fund to pay for non-national insurance-funded programmes in each year since 1997. [227664]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the National Insurance Fund Accounts that are published annually. Copies of the Accounts are available in the Library of the House.

Any surplus in the National Insurance Fund is held in a short-term investment account run by the Commissioners for the reduction of national debt.

Revenue and Customs: Buildings

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many office buildings owned or leased by HM Revenue and Customs are currently not in use in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South West, *(c)* Cornwall and *(d)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall. [227501]

Mr. Timms: No buildings owned or leased by HM Revenue and Customs in England are not in use.

Social Security Benefits

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people applied for *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit in each month since January 2006. [228029]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available in the format requested. Child and working tax credits are claimed on the same form so it is not possible to provide separate figures for working tax credit and child tax credit except at disproportionate cost.

Taxation: Invalid Vehicles

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the implications for UK policy of the recent decision by the Dutch authorities in relation to the tax on mobility scooters for the use of disabled people in response to legal action in that country. [222243]

Mr. Timms: The UK must follow European Union classification policy, which currently classifies mobility scooters as

'vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons'

and sets an import duty of 10 per cent. for customs purposes. The UK cannot adopt a decision made in isolation by a national Court in another member state.

The European Commission has been asked to confirm EU policy in the light of a decision by the Dutch authorities. HMRC will continue to work with the British Healthcare Trades Association and others seeking a change in EU classification policy and will be representing the views of UK importers of mobility scooters in future discussions.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to provide a substantive response to Question 222243, on taxation of mobility scooters, tabled on 21 July 2008. [227545]

Mr. Timms: I have today replied to the hon. Member and regret not having been in a position to do so earlier.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Admiralty House

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Lord Malloch Brown will continue to occupy a ministerial residence in Admiralty House following the recent Cabinet reshuffle and changes to the machinery of Government. [225214]

Gillian Merron: I can confirm that Lord Malloch-Brown will continue to occupy a ministerial residence in Admiralty House.

Belarus: State Visits

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any Ministers or officials plan to meet the Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus when he visits the UK in November. [226456]

Caroline Flint: At the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 13 October, EU Foreign Ministers agreed to suspend for six months the travel ban against a number of Belarusian figures, including President Lukashenko, and the ban on senior-level political contacts.

We are under no illusions that the situation on democracy and human rights remains poor. Wider sanctions were renewed for a further 12 months, and if respect for democracy and human rights does not improve, or worsens, the EU will reimpose the travel ban.

The decision was taken because we believe the time is right to re-engage with Belarus, and in recognition of the important step that Belarus has taken in releasing its last remaining political prisoners. Engagement at senior levels will give its leadership the opportunity to hear our message directly. The visit by the Belarusian Prime Minister in November would give us an opportunity to do this, and we are considering appropriate meetings during the course of the visit.

British Council: Performing Arts

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department provided to the British Council to sponsor British musical and theatrical artists to perform overseas in each year since 1998. [225518]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided £190 million grant in aid funding to the British Council in 2007-08. However, it does not hold detailed records on funding for musical and theatrical artists to perform overseas. The British Council currently has three key programme areas: intercultural dialogue, climate change, and supporting the UK's creative and knowledge economy. The British Council's financial systems do not currently hold information at the level of detail to provide this specific breakdown and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

British Nationality: Travel Information

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures are in place to provide advice on security matters to British citizens making arrangements to travel overseas; to which countries such advice relates; and if he will make a statement. [223576]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office maintain a web site and a call centre specifically tasked to provide travel advice to British Nationals making arrangements to travel, and while travelling overseas. This advice is constantly amended using information from a range of sources, specific to security, such as the Joint Terrorist Analysis Centre, the security and intelligence agencies, open source/medis reporting and our diplomatic missions overseas.

Travel Advice is available on

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travellinig-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country

or via the Travel Advice Call Centre 0845 850 2829 (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Croatia: Missing Persons

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens were reported as missing in Croatia in each of the last three years; how many of these have not yet been found; and if he will make a statement. [225347]

Caroline Flint: Our consular staff were made aware of four cases of missing British citizens in Croatia over the past three years, one each in 2006 and 2007, and two in 2008. None are still missing.

Diplomatic Service

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which UN member states the UK has no resident British Ambassador or resident British High Commissioner; and from which country British diplomatic representation is provided by accreditation in each of those countries.[1] [223091]

Gillian Merron: There are 54 UN member states in which the UK has no resident British ambassador or resident British high commissioner. They are shown in the following table with details of from where British diplomatic representation is provided by accreditation.

UN member:	*Accredited:*
American Samoa	New Zealand
Andorra	Spain
Antigua and Barbuda	Barbados
Bahamas	Jamaica
Benin	Nigeria
Bhutan	none
Burkina Faso	Ghana
Burundi	Rwanda
Cape Verde	Senegal
Central African Republic	Cameroon
Chad	Cameroon
Comoros	Mauritius
Congo (Republic of the)	Democratic Republic of Congo
Cote d'Ivoire	Ghana
Djibouti	Ethiopia
Dominica	Barbados
East Timor	Indonesia
El Salvador	Guatemala
Equatorial Guinea	Nigeria
Gabon	Cameroon
Grenada	Barbados
Guinea-Bissau	Senegal
Haiti	Dominican Republic
Honduras	Guatemala
Kiribati	Fiji
Kyrgyzstan	Kazakhstan
Laos	Thailand
Lesotho	South Africa
Liberia	Sierra Leone
Liechtenstein	Switzerland
Madagascar	Mauritius
Maldives	Sri Lanka
Mali	Senegal
Marshall Islands	Philipines
Mauritania	Morocco
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Philipines
Monaco	France
Nauru	Fiji
Nicaragua	Costa Rica
Niger	Ghana
Palau	Philipines
Paraguay	Argentina

1. *[Official Report, 3 November 2008, Vol. 482, c. 1MC.]*

UN member:	*Accredited:*
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Barbados
Saint Lucia	Barbados
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Barbados
San Marino	Italy
Sao Tome and Principe	Angola
Somalia	Kenya
Suriname	Guyana
Swaziland	South Africa
Togo	Ghana
Tonga	Fiji
Tuvalu	Fiji
Vanuatu	Fiji

Georgia: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to encourage a peaceful resolution of the dispute between Russia and Georgia. [225400]

Caroline Flint: The Government have been in close contact with UN, EU, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), G7, and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) partners, and the parties to the conflict, in the search for a peaceful resolution to the dispute between Russia and Georgia.

On 12 August, the Government supported EU/OSCE efforts which successfully brokered a six-point ceasefire plan between the parties to the conflict. This plan provided the basis for the agreement between Presidents Sarkozy and Medvedev on 8 September of a supplementary set of commitments, and set the context for the decision by EU Foreign Ministers on 15 September to deploy an EU monitoring mission to Georgia by 1 October. The mission deployed by the agreed deadline and is on the ground. The UK has made a significant contribution of 20 personnel and four armoured cars, in addition to earlier immediate humanitarian aid of £2 million.

The Sarkozy/Medvedev agreement, along with the original six-point plan, constitutes a serious set of commitments to the international community, and lays the basis for a lasting and peaceful resolution of the dispute between Russia and Georgia. Under that agreement, talks on security and stability in South Ossetia and Abkhazia will begin in Geneva on 15 October, under EU chairmanship, with UN and OSCE participation. We are pressing the parties to the conflict to abide by their commitments.

Georgia: South Ossetia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the security and intelligence services reported to his Department on the possibility of military action by Georgia in South Ossetia before the action began. [223176]

Caroline Flint: It is the long standing policy of the Government not to comment on matters relating to the intelligence and security services.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Georgian government on the effects of its military actions in South Ossetia on civilians in the region. [223178]

Caroline Flint: Over the years, the UK, EU and its other allies have warned the Georgian government that any attempt to take over the two separatist regions (Abkhazia and South Ossetia) by force would be counterproductive.

In all our contacts with the Georgian Government, we have emphasised the serious consequences for innocent civilians caught up in military actions. We have urged the Georgians to agree to the ceasefire and then to implement the peace plan which would enable the international community to deal with the humanitarian situation.

On 8 August 2008, our ambassador in Tbilisi called on the Georgian Foreign Minister to express the UK Government's deep concerns at the renewed fighting and to call for an immediate ceasefire, not least to allow civilians to escape. He conveyed the Government's regret at the tragic loss of life.

In his call to the Georgian President on 15 August, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister expressed particular concern for the thousands of displaced people and pointed out that the Georgian government had a big responsibility to meet humanitarian needs in this crisis.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he has had with diplomats and officials from *(a)* Georgia, *(b)* Russia, *(c)* the UN, *(d)* the European Union and *(e)* NATO on the outbreak of conflict in South Ossetia since it took place; and if he will make a statement. [223396]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend Foreign Secretary has had a number of meetings with international leaders concerning the outbreak of conflict in South Ossetia since hostilities began. These include his meeting with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Foreign Ministers in Brussels on 19 August. Later the same day, he met the Georgian President in Tbilisi, and again at the UN on 27 September. Also at the UN, he met the Russian Foreign Minister on 25 September. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary attended an extraordinary meeting of the European Council on 1 September. The Foreign Secretary also met the Georgian Prime Minister in London on 19 September.

Alongside the Foreign Secretary's meetings, UK officials and diplomats have been in close contact with UN, EU, NATO, G7, and Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe partners, and the parties to the conflict, in the search for a lasting and peaceful resolution to the dispute between Georgia and Russia. Following my recent appointment as Minister for Europe at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, I look forward to helping to achieve that goal.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date his Department first made a response to the attack by

Georgian forces on 7 August on residents of Russian origin in South Ossetia; what the response was; to whom it was made; whether any revision has been made to that response subsequently; and what discussions his Department has had with the government of Georgia on the matter. [223474]

Caroline Flint: In a statement published on 8 August 2008, the Government joined international calls for an immediate ceasefire in South Ossetia after Georgia launched a military offensive to regain control of the breakaway province. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office said that it was "monitoring" developments and called for an immediate ceasefire in the fighting in South Ossetia and for a resumption of direct dialogue between all the parties.

On 8 August, our ambassador in Tbilisi called on the Georgian Foreign Minister, Eka Tkeshelashvili to urge restraint and cooperation with the international peace efforts and convey our support for Georgia's territorial integrity within the internationally-recognised borders.

In a statement on 9 August, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said: "The UK Government are deeply concerned by the violence in Georgia. The escalation in fighting is dangerously destabilising and there is also the threat of civilian losses on a large scale. I am today holding high level consultations with European Foreign Ministers and with the US Secretary of State. The UK will be discussing with all our partners how to stop the spread of violence, secure a ceasefire and get talks underway."

On 15 August, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke with the Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili urging cooperation and implementation of the peace plan brokered by the EU, and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Government's response to the crisis has remained the same—urging all parties to the conflict to work with the international community towards a sustainable resolution of the conflict based on territorial integrity, rule of law and respect for human rights.

I refer my hon. Friend to the Prime Ministerial written statement after the Extraordinary European Council on the crisis in Georgia on 1 September 2008 for further details of our response to the crisis, *Official Report*, 10 September 2008, columns 127-30WS.

Youth Parliaments

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which overseas youth parliaments his Department has funded in the last five years; and how much his Department has provided for each. [226181]

Caroline Flint: Financial information at this level of detail is not held centrally. Therefore to answer this question would incur disproportionate cost, as all our overseas posts and a number of FCO Directorates would need to be consulted.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 8 October 2008

NORTHERN IRELAND

Homicide

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many unsolved murders there have been in Northern Ireland over the last 30 years. [185677]

[Official Report, 21 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 837W.]

Letter of correction from Paul Goggins:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for Romford on 21 February 2008. The full answer given was as follows:

Paul Goggins: The PSNI has advised that for the period 1970 to 2004 the number of cases of murder which remain open and under investigation is 3,951.

The figures provided previously referred to the number of deaths that were under investigation by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. These included deaths which are currently not classified as murder, but are suspicious or deal with the disappearance, presumed death, of a person.

The correct answer should have been:

Paul Goggins: The following table provides a breakdown of the figures requested:

	Number
1977	120
1978	96
1979	134
1980	96
1981	116
1982	111
1983	96
1984	73
1985	59
1986	88
1987	117
1988	114
1989	71
1990	82
1991	118
1992	111
1993	104
1994	80
1995	22
1996	39
1997	42
1998	50
1999	32
2000	42
2001	55
2002	35
2003	33
2004	4
2005	9
2006	2
2007	3

Ministerial Correction

Monday 13 October 2008

HOME DEPARTMENT

Northamptonshire Police

Mr. Bone: I understand the figures that the Minister cites, but one problem in Northamptonshire is that the population of the area in 1997 was much smaller.

[Official Report, 8 October 2008, Vol. 480, c. 100-07WH.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Alan Campbell:

On 8 October 2008 I responded on behalf of the Government to an adjournment debate you had called to discuss the performance of Northamptonshire Police. I found it an interesting debate and was grateful for the constructive way you raised your issues and in that spirit I thought it important to let you know about a slight factual error I provided to the House.

During the debate, when I was quoting the police numbers in your area I said:

"At the end of March 2008, Northamptonshire had 1,264 police officers, which is an increase of 87 officers on the previous year, and the force has 159 police community support officers."

I should however have said that the increase of 87 police officers was from March 1997.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 16 October 2008

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Promoting Democracy and Human Rights

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Gillian Merron): In addition, there will be a discussion of human rights in specific countries as a standing item on the agenda of the Human Rights Council—an item that was not on the old commission's agenda.

[Official Report, 13 October 2008, Vol. 480, c. 641.]

Letter of correction from Gillian Merron:

An error has been identified in the Oral Answer given during the debate on promoting democracy and human rights on 13 October 2008.

The answer given stated:

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Gillian Merron): In addition, there will be a discussion of human rights in specific countries as a standing item on the agenda of the Human Rights Council—an item that was not on the old commission's agenda.

The correct answer should have been:

In addition, there will be a discussion of human rights in specific countries as a standing item on the agenda of the Human Rights Council.